

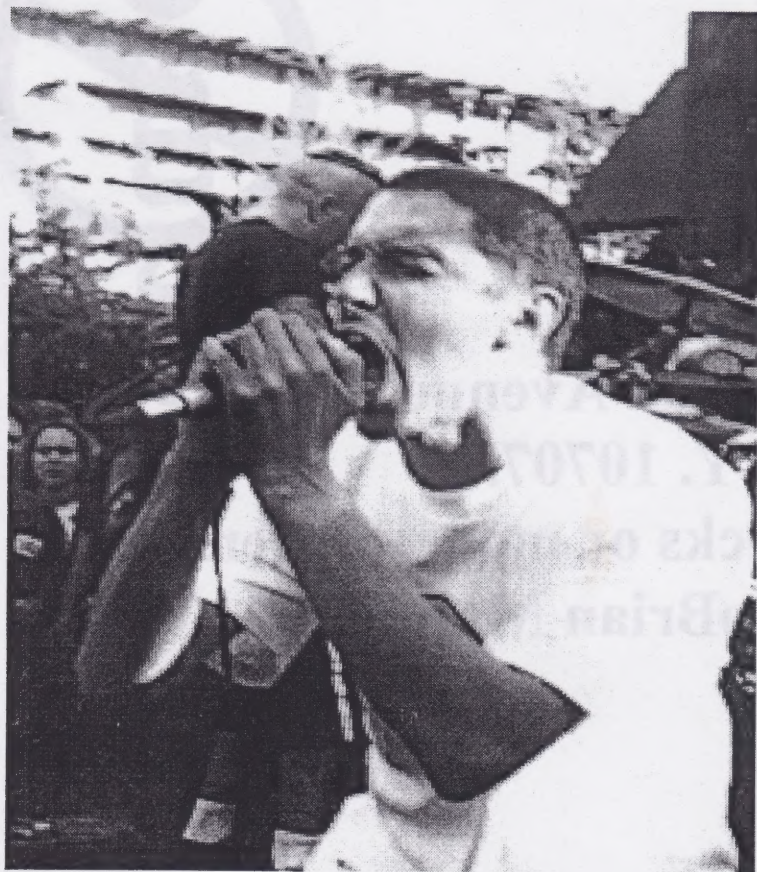
INSIGHT

0697666

\$ 1.99

a.k.a. In Your Face
HARDCORE/PUNK ZINE

ISSUE #2



**Interviews with:
Tripface, L.E.S.
Stitches, Sub Zero,
Banner of Hope,
Home 33,
No Redeeming Social
Value. Lots of
reviews and cool
essays.**



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Welcome to the second issue of *Insight*. Right away, let me clarify something, this zine used to be called "In Your Face", but it turns out that there's another zine with that name. To make a long story short, we decided to change it. So this is the first issue with the new name and the second issue overall. This issue required a lot of work, and I'm pretty happy with the general result. If you bought this, thank you very much for supporting us and for helping us out. While this issue was being produced Ben (the other half of this zine) has been away at school in Georgia. He's been pretty busy and didn't really have much time for this. He apologizes and will be back next issue.

I don't feel like writing a big speech to say why this zine exists, let me just say that the zine will focus on both hardcore and punk as well as all other type of music for two simple reasons: 1) We like both punk and hardcore music equally. 2) We're sick of not seeing any hardcore kids at punk shows and vice versa, even though the music is pretty much the same and all this segregation is pretty much bullshit. So be open-minded to all types of music. There's so much good shit out there, you'd be surprised.

Before I go on let me thank a few people who really helped us out: Danny Resnick for letting me go to his house and use his scanner, without him this zine would look really shitty. Scott Horton for the Home 33 and Sub Zero pictures. All the bands for their interviews. The Simpsons for hours and hours of entertainment that they've provided for me. All the labels that sent stuff. Dan Simmonds for writing the StarWars essay as well as our families and all our friends, too many to name. You know who you are.

I really have nothing to write about in this ungodly hour so I'll tell you the soundtrack for the zine which is pretty much the stuff I've listened to while doing the zine.

Soundtrack (in no particular order)

- 1) Tripface "Some Part Sorrow" CD
 - 2) Sick of it All "Built to Last" CD
 - 3) L.E.S. Stitches "Snapped" CD
 - 4) Common Ground 7 in.
 - 5) Shutdown "Turning the Tide" CD EP
 - 6) Staright Faced "Broken" CD
 - 7) CockSparrer/Business "Live and Loud" CD.
 - 8) The Banned 7 in.
-

OK, now I get to the advertisement part. In the first issue we didn't charge for ads, but the cost of production is going up slightly, so I'm goin to try something new ad wise.

Ad Rates- I understand that all labels have different financial status's and some can not afford to advertise, which is a shame so here's my deal. If you'd like to advertise just send me the ad whatever size along with a donation which you feel is just. The donation doesn't have to be monetary, anything to help me out. All labels are also encouraged to send all listening material for review. Anything that we receive will be reviewed in the next issue.

Feel free to write us with any questions, mail, any literary contributions.

Max Pozdorovkin c/o Insight zine.

5 Hartsdale ave, White Plains, New York. 10605.

or call (914) 682-2760.

P.S. On the cover is Lou from Sick of it All, by Doug Cho. Tripface pictures by Erin Zaniesky.

Westchester Report.

Being from Westchester, I feel the need to tell people about what's going on there. Although it's not much of a scene, there are some cool zines and some great bands, which people should check out. The two main zines that are really good are Function and Sealed For Safety. The new Sealed for Safety came out recently and the new Function will be out soon, so check them out. Sub Zero are re-releasing their "Happiness Without Peace" CD on Century Media records and will be touring a lot with that. Awkward Thought are planning on releasing a split 7in. with Comin' Correct. That will be out on either Nawpost or Back Ta Basics records. Awkward Thought is also looking for a drummer, so if you know anyone, contact them through Nawpost. The Banned have released their first 7in. It has ten songs and is on Fourth Demention Records (look at ad for address). The Maladjusted are a new band out of Westchester, they have a six song demo out. The Unruly are one of the few Westchester Oi! bands and are really good. They have a six song demo out and have recently gotten signed to a European label. Good luck to them. 7 willow st. in Portchester has shows every once in awhile. I think the Bouncing Souls are playing there with the Walters on April 26. That's pretty much most of the news, some other bands to check out are Half-Nelson, Rainmen, Roswell, Skeptonics, Howitzer, Skizomatics, Provokin' Boredum.

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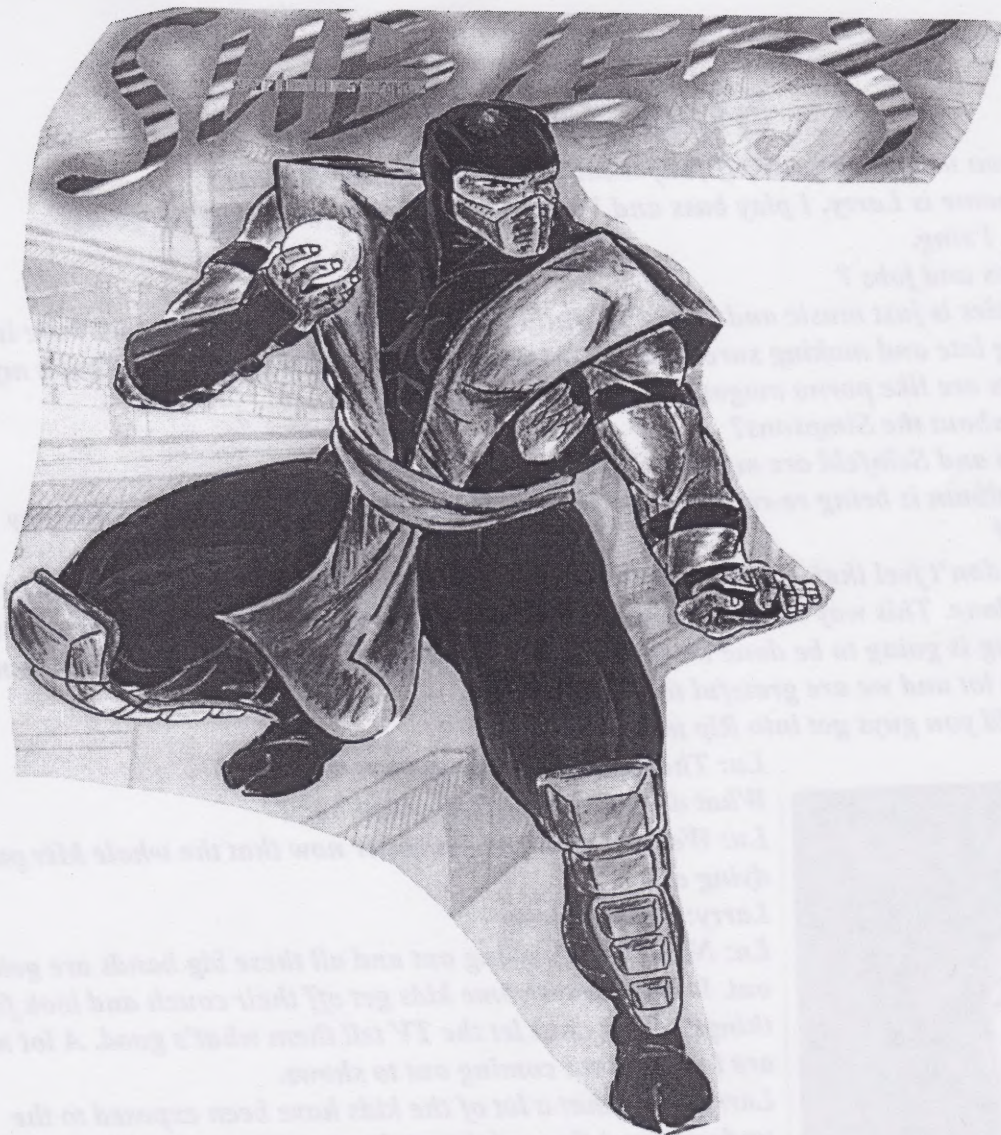


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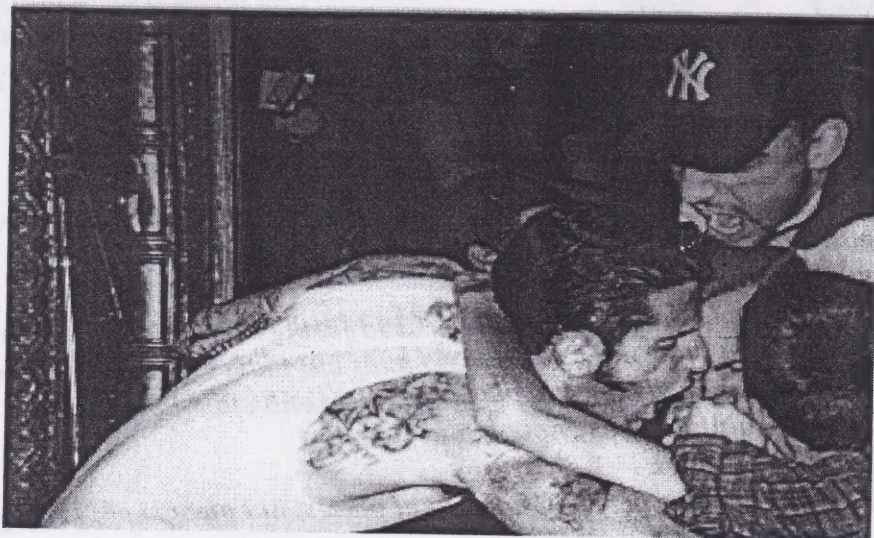
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Sub Zero are, without a doubt, one of the top NYHC bands out there. Originating from Westchester, NY they've been playing for close to nine years now. Unfortunately they have been often overlooked as a great hardcore outfit. Over the years they have improved greatly and last year released their long awaited full length titled "Happiness Without Peace" on Too Damn Hype records. Playing progressive, versatile hardcore is what Sub Zero master. Later this year their album will be re-released on Century Media records, so make sure you check it out. Sub Zero is Lu(vocals), Larry(bass), Rich(guitar) and Jim(drums). This interview was done at Wetlands on Jan. 19.



SUB ZERO

Max: Can you introduce yourself, say what you do and what you hate?

Larry: My name is Larry, I play bass and I hate a lot of things, don't get me going.

Lu: I'm Lu, I sing.

Max: Hobbies and jobs?

Larry: Hobbies is just music and I have recently started working at some clothes store in Brooklyn.

Lu: Sleeping late and making sure that the TV programs are on as scheduled. That's my job by the way. Hobbies are like porno magazines and shit like that.

Max: What about the Simpsons?

Larry: Them and Seinfeld are my favorite.

Max: Your album is being re-released on Century Media why? Were you guys unhappy with Too Damn Hype?

Lu: Well we don't feel that it was being distributed properly. We always had to be on his ass about getting shit done. This way we're working with Century Media, we have people who are working for us. Everything is going to be done on time the way it should be. But Met from Too Damn Hype did help us out a lot and we are grateful to him for that.

Max: How did you guys get into Rip magazine?

Lu: They just liked the record a lot.

What do you think of the scene now?

Lu: Well it's getting a lot better now that the whole Mtv punk thing is dying out.

Larry: It's rave now.

Lu: Now that it's dying out and all these big bands are getting played out. It also makes some kids get off their couch and look for better things rather than let the TV tell them what's good. A lot more kids are looking and coming out to shows.

Larry: Now that a lot of the kids have been exposed to the underground they might not be as quick to go back to the trendy thing because they see that there is a lot of good down here.

Lu: Well I'll say it's good because back in the day there was Headbanger's Ball and 120 Minutes that were on at like 12 at night on Sunday. And the people that were into it would stay up that late, so it was kinda like an underground thing. It's not like your average Joe was staying up on Sunday night to watch 120 minutes.

Max: Where in Westchester are you guys from?

Lu: Around the Mt. Kisco area.

Max: I'm from White Plains.

Lu: I used to live in White Plains.

Max: What effect do you think being from Westchester, where there

isn't much of a scene, have had on you?

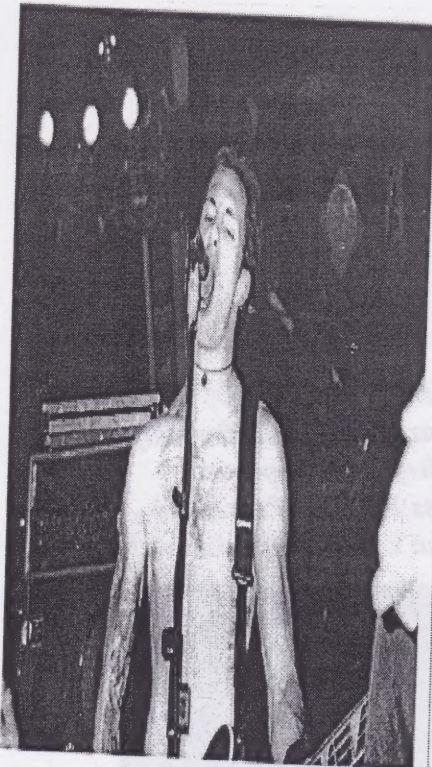
Larry: It just made us try harder.

Lu: A lot of people think that if you're a band from NYC that means you're something good and don't realize that there are a lot of great bands out there that don't get a chance to play. A lot of those bands work really hard to play great music and often don't get that chance.

Max: Do you think NY has enough places to play?

Lu: In NY, it's alright.

Larry: I think NY has the right amount of places, but outside of NY there needs to be a lot more.



Lu: People should realize that there are a lot of great bands out there and the venues have more shows where sXe bands play with skinhead bands, emo bands playing with total street style bands. Mixin' shit up a lot more, like it used to be, so we can make it fuckin' strong again.

Max: What are your memories of school?

Lu: I got kicked out a lot.

Larry: I hated it. They didn't like me too much.

Lu: Yeah, they hated my ass.

Max: Did you guys do any tours with the record?

Lu: No, not yet.

Larry: We're working on it.

Lu: We had a tour scheduled to start on Jan. 31 with Crown of Thornz.

Larry: We're working on a few deals right now.

Max: Is the re-release going to have new stuff on it?

Lu: To be perfectly honest, it's pretty much the same, but we remixed it and remastered it. It's different packaging with a lot more pictures and stuff. It sounds like a real album. It sounds a hell of a lot better and we wouldn't be saying it because in the beginning we didn't really care if we remaster it or not. Now that we did, it sounds so much better. Definitely try to pick it up.

Max: What band would you compare yourself to?

Lu: I don't like comparing us to anybody but a lot of reviews I've read mention the Cro-Mags and we really like that cause they have been a big influence on us.

Max: Favorite female celebrity?

Lu: I like the girl from the Craft. It's hard to say there are so many beautiful women out there. But for the record I gotta say, I love my girlfriend.

Larry: I love all beautiful girls.

Max: If you had a chance to play with any band, what band would you choose?

Lu: It'd be really cool to play with Elvis.

Larry: We like so many bands and so many different types of music it's really hard to decide.

Max: What other types of music are you guys into?

Lu: We listen to everything from the Beatles to Joy Division. Fuckin' everything and anything.

Larry: I like a lot of industrial shit.

Lu: A lot of 50's music. Johnny Cash. I fucking love Elvis. Frank Sinatra.

Max: What rock stars do you hate the most?

Lu: I hate Eddie Vedder man, I really hate his fucking guts.

Larry: I hate Glenn Danzig.

Lu: Larry almost fought Glenn Danzig at Tower records once.

Larry: There are some stories on that.

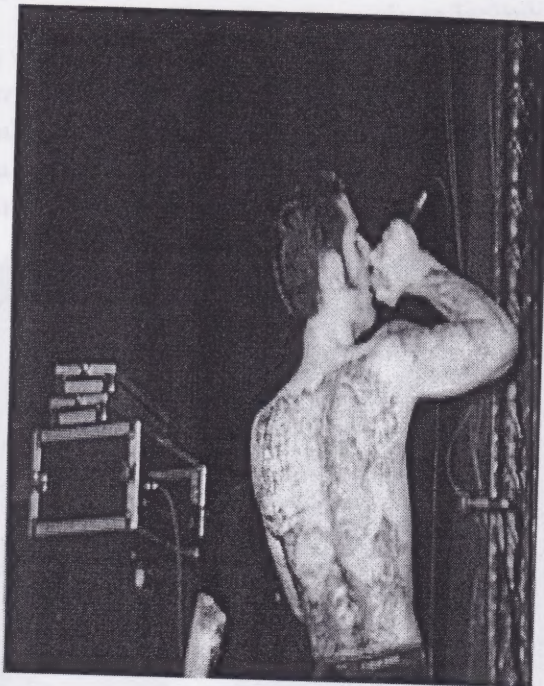
Max: What kind of response did you get from people to the song "Fuck Mtv, I want my NYHC"?

Lu: It's been really fucking good actually. A lot of people have really been sticking by us. The song is simple and to the point and may sound silly to a lot of people, but it was a message to the kids. We didn't want to make it a twisted message, we wanted to put it straight into everybody's face.

Max: Where do you see yourself and the whole hardcore scene in 10 years?

Lu: Dead.

Max: Any bad or good shows that stick out in your memory?



Lu: We've had a lot of bad shows, especially in the beginning. One time we tried to use all this weird technical equipment and really fucked up.

Larry: We always seem to be fucking up in one way or another.

Max: You want to try to ask yourself a question, I know it's kind of hard to do when you're drunk.

Lu: I'll ask myself "What the hell am I doing?" Why am I drinking all the time at this rate I'm gonna die in 5 years and so will the rest of us. We have to chill out.

Max: What's the brew of choice for the band?



Lu: I like Bass Ale.

Larry: I like Budweiser, I'm not picky.

Max: You know that Budweiser is actually a Polish beer and the American company stole the name or something like that.. I tasted the Polish version in Russia this summer. It tastes like piss, but a different flavor of it not like the American Budweiser.

Lu: I love Russian girls.

Larry: I love Russian men(sarcastically).

Lu: I love Russia!!

Max: Alright, alright. In the future do you see yourself expanding more in the direction of more melodic stuff like "America the Ungrateful" and "Fuck Mtv"?

Larry: We're expanding as we speak.

Lu: We do what comes natural we don't let anything influence us.

Larry: We just pour it out.

Lu: We have our influences, but it's whatever we feel like at the moment.

Max: How do you feel you guys progressed as a band over the years?

Larry: 100% we started out as a bunch of kids.

Lu: We're much more mature now. Also we're like a family now, we hang out together we do everything together.

Max: What about as musicians?

Larry: Oh, sure.

Lu: I don't play an instrument, but I can tell that these guys have definitely come a long way.

Max: What's next for you guys besides the Century Media thing?

Lu: Well we're going to Japan in May.

Larry: We're working on some tours right now and writing some new songs.

Max: Do you have any good drunk stories, I'm sure you have plenty.

Lu: We've fallen of the stage at least every other show.

Max: Or like at that Suny Purchase show where you forgot the lyrics.

Lu: You were at that. That show I fell of the stage and forgot the lyrics. At the Guillotine benefit I fell off the stage. Larry has decked me everywhere with his bass handle. I've also decked myself in the eye.

Larry: But we feel the drunker we are, the better we are.

Lu: Even though we don't reccomend it we have a better time playing when we're drunk.

Max: What's more important beer or pot?

Lu: Beer.

Larry: I like them both.

Lu: I get these crazy anxieties and the pot don't help me out.

Max: Talk about your feelings on Kurt Cobain?

Lu: I think Courteney Love killed the motherfucker. She looks hot now after all that surgery.

Larry: Went to the same plastic surgeon as Pamela Anderson and Jenny McCarthy.

Lu: I'm not dissing Kurt Cobain in that song, to tell you the truth. He claimed that he killed himself because he couldn't deal with what he did. That's the best way to go out. I give him credit for that.

Larry: He went out with integrity.

Lu: He had all his beliefs behind his back. I don't reccomend killing yourself. But he had balls, he went out with integrity.

Max: Before I forget, are you guys doing a video?

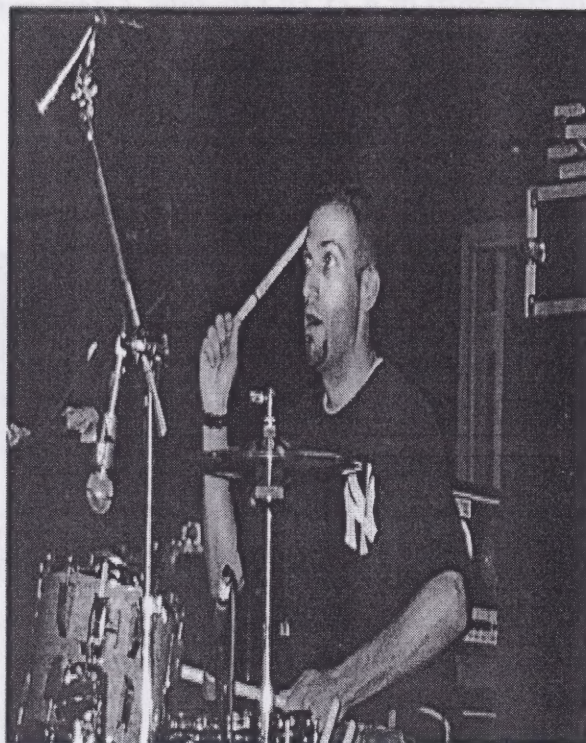
Lu: Yeah, we're gonna have a party with food and a keg, everyone's welcome to come and we'll shoot it there. It's gonna be on a bunch of skate and snowboard comps. I think it might be on Headbanger's Ball, which I don't mind cause only true metalheads and hardcore kids watch that.

Max: What song is it gonna be, Higher Power?

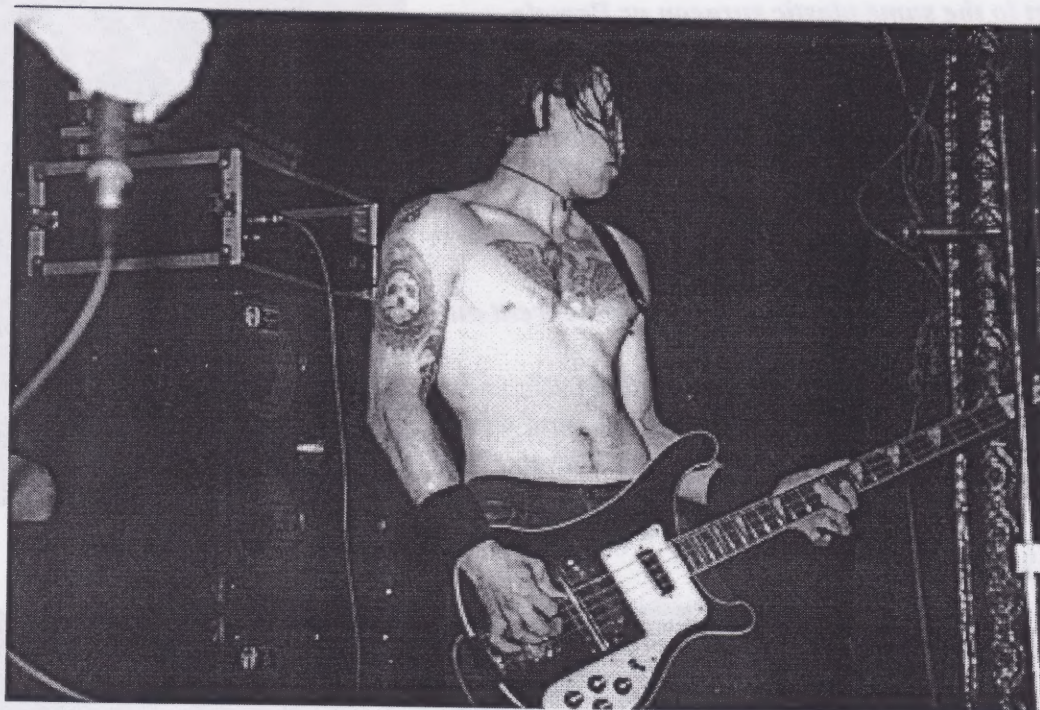
Lu: Yeah probably Higher Power.

Max: Closing comments.

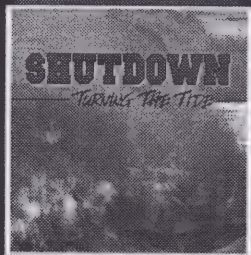
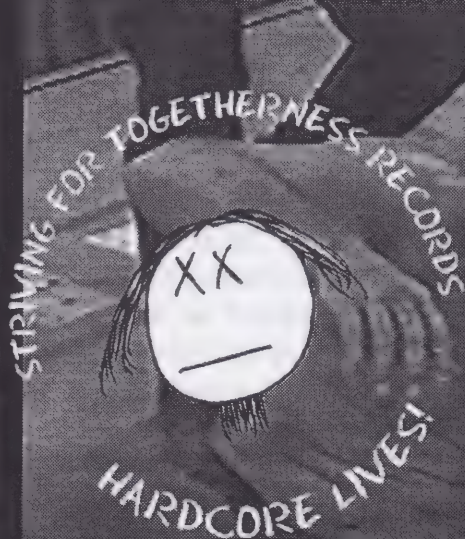
Lu: Everyone should just keep doing their own thing and not bother anybody else. We need to educate, because there are a lot of kids that need to be educated, so we can make it a lot stronger. A lot of these kids they don't go beyond the Tv screen to look for things. I go



on the Internet every once in awhile and all you see is like Korn and Marilyn Manson. Instead of staying at home they should go to the Wetlands, have fun and go home with like a Sub Zero shirt or an H20 shirt or a 25 Ta Life shirt. Check out the Unruly, they're are a really good Oi band. Keep it up.



S.F.T. RECORDS CRUSHES THE COMPETITION



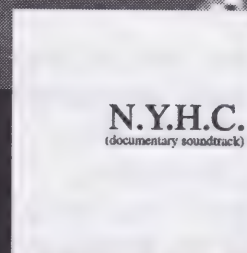
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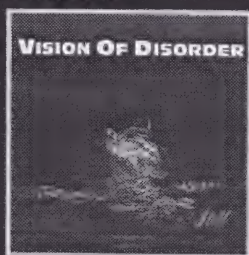
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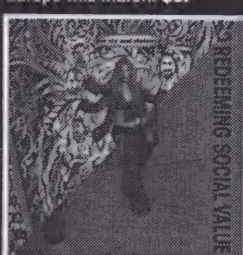
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THE SIMPSONS.

Let me start off by saying the Simpsons rule. It's my favorite show on TV and nothing else compares to it. I've been a fan for a long time and now have about 30 hours of commercial-free Simpson goodness on tape, which I'm very proud of. It has come to my attention and please do not take this as a sexist remark that a lot of girls don't like the Simpsons at all. I know I might be totally wrong about this, it's just based on the slight amount research that I've done, which involved pretty much coming up to total strangers and asking them questions. If anyone has any theories about this one please send it in and it will be printed in the next issue. Now to get to the main part which is a contest, that's right Simpsons trivia. The following is a list of quotes from some episodes. You must name the episode that they come from and then send the list to me along with your address and phone number. The first few people who get them right will win a free CD and other cool shit. It's simple. To win you must get all ten right. Good luck.

- 1)-That's my son up there!
 - Which one, the balding fat ass?
 - No, the Hindu guy.
- 2)-Marge, I'm bored.
 - Why don't you read.
 - Because I'm trying to reduce my boredom.
- 3)-The mythological two-headed hound, born with only one head.
- 4)-Marge, I think I've figured out a way that we can save money without cutting down on my beer; basically we become a family of traveling acrobats
- 5)-I don't want to look like a weirdo,I'll just go with the moo-moo.
- 6)-More testicles means more iron.
- 7)-That's proposterous Zutroy here is as American as apple pie.
- 8)Hey Krusty,remember when we got loaded and let those beavers loose at that pine furnishing store.
- 9) -Remember those self-hypnosis classes we took to help us ignore granpa?
 - Do I ever it's five years later and I still think I'm a chicken
- 10)-I am the angel of death, the time of purification is at hand.



L.E.S. STITCHES.

I met up with the Stitches at a recent show at C.I.H. (Sat. Jan 5 Blanks 77, L.E.S. Stitches, The Suspects) in the downstairs lounge. Present were all the members except for the singer Mick. Since it was pretty noisy, at times I couldn't tell who was speaking. I tried my best, but in case I fucked something up. I apologize.

Max: Can you introduce yourself?

Todd: Todd Radict, rhythm guitar player.

Curt: Curt Stitch, other guitar player.

Damian: Damian, bass, back-up vocals and flyers. (excited tone)

James: James Baggs, drums and I'm sixteen and just happy to be here. (sarcastically).

Max: Brief history of the band.

Curt: Basically me and Todd were in the Radicts and that broke up. The other two guys wanted to do something else. So we started playing with Mick, who was originally our drummer and then we got Damian who tried to sing and then our other bass player left and then we got James and he started playing drums. We've had this line-up for about a year and a half.

Max: Tell a little about your new album.

Todd: It's on Eyeball records.

Max: Vinny from Generation ?

Curt: Yeah, Vinny rules.

Damian: It has 11 tracks and good cover art.

James: It's silly cover art, it's our first release. Hopefully we'll have more after that.

Curt: We also have two single, "Rustic City " and "Could Just Die", we're also on a comp called "From The Ground Up" which is on Eyeball as well. We're also on another one on Dwell records.

Damian: Mad comps, yo. (We laugh).

Todd: We're also on a Johnny Thunders tribute comp.



Max:Were you guys satisfied with the way the record came out?

James:Very happy.

Damian:We had more control over the recording this time than we've ever had before,so we're happy with the final results.

Max:Did you ever have trouble with the name Stitches?

Curt:We know the other Stitches.

James:I know their singer Mike and I talked to him about two years ago and he was a really cool guy, we even joked about doing a split album together and they had no hard feelings about the name.

Curt:Also a lot of people in California think that L.E.S. is French for "the", but it stands for Lower East Side.

Max:What do you do for jobs and what hobbies do you have?

Curt:We're all ever bartender or sell used clothing. And hobbies.....

Damian:Star Wars.

Curt:Damian has a pretty good Star Wars Collection.I collect X-MEN toys. Todd collects comics and so does Mick our singer.

James:I don't collect anything, I have no hobbies.

Damian:He collects money.

Max:The Simpsons.

All:Love 'em,love'em!!!

James:Do you like them?

Max:With me its gone beyond the limits of obsession.I have every episode on tape. Can't live without them.

Curt:All I know is that I want my own can of Duff beer.

James:They keep on getting better every season.

Curt:I'll even tolerate the Tracy Ullman show just to see the old ones that are on Comedy Central.Where else,but the Simpsons can you see a drunkard father.

Max:Why do you think a lot of girls don't like the Simpsons?

Damian: My girlfriend likes them.

Curt:It's all because of Lisa.She used to be a smart ass like Bart,but now she's just a goody-toosh.

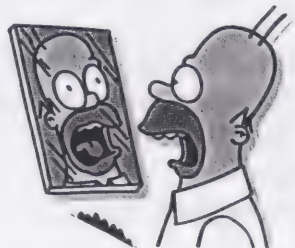
Max:Most girls either like them a little or don't like them at all, but the ones who do like them they aren't ecstatic about it like a lot of the guys.

Curt:My favorite one is where Marge almost has the affair.

James:My favorite saying on that show is when they're seeing Sideshow Bob at the air show and Homer says to Marge "I couldn't find you any aspirin, so I got you some cigarettes" I was on the floor,I swear.



Autophobia ● →
- fear of oneself



Damian:I Like the Krusty the Klown one with the mafia, where he has to ride the little bicycle.

MAX: I love the stonecutters one.

Curt:Also the one with the Ramones."Happy birthday Burns.Die and go to hell,you old bastard"

James:"Smithers have the Rolling Stones killed"

Curt:That's our ultimate goal as a band, to be on that show.

(The Simpsons conversation was greatly reduced in length.)

Max:What do you think of the punk scene now?

Curt:I think it's cool.A lot of people out there say that all these bands are just jumping on the bandwagon. But for every couple of bands that are jumping on the bandwagon, there are a lot of bands that are doing it for real.The more people that are really into it.

Todd: I don't like the Mtv version of punk, like "No Doubt" because they don't really capture the essence of punk.

Curt:Years ago when someone heard you were a punk band, they'd be like "What the fuck is that?" but now, hey, we're all punks. Back when the Radicts were around there was barely anyone who showed up for shows and now a lot more people come. That's great, I don't want to play to no one, I want to play to people, who enjoy the music. There are more people who are actually doing shit. Less people sitting on the

corner asking for change. Kids are writing zines, putting records out and making the scene a lot better. All these squatters should get off their ass and make something of themselves.

Max:Are you guys into hardcore?

All:Yeah.

Curt:Murphy's Law, we love.

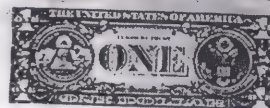
Todd: H2O is great too.

Damian:Outburst.

Max: What do you think of a lot of hardcore kids not going to punk shows and a lot of punk kids not coming to hardcore shows?Curt: That sucks, but Murphy's Law brings different crowds together. We've played to like all hardcore kids and it was cool. It's great when people are brought together and just hang out. It would be great to play a show where there is a hardcore band, a punk band, an oi! band and like a ska band, but some people just separate themselves and that's stupid.



L.E.S. Stitches
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James: It's great what Murphy's Law has achieved where they have punks, skins, girls and guys on stage at the same time.

Max: Where do you guys see yourself as a band in 10 years?

Curt: Sitting at the bar.

James: Opening for Murphy's Law.

Damian: I can see myself in a nice comfy wheelchair.

Max: What impact would you like to have on the scene?

Curt: Just to make it different and more open. Everything shouldn't be one way. Anything can fucking happen.

Max: What's next for you guys recording wise, comps, etc.?

Todd: The Johnny Thunders comp.

Curt: First we're going to tour with this record.

James: Also, Punk Uprisings 2 comp.

Curt: We're probably going to go on a little tour in April or May.

Max: Who do you guys hate in terms of rock stars and movie stars?

Curt: I dunno. Who do we hate?

Todd: I hate Madonna, I can't stand her.

James: I don't hate her. She was very nice to me. I met her a long time ago and I gave her a single and a video.

She was very polite, so I don't hate

her.

Damian: Dammit, I can't think of anyone I fucking hate. But I know I hate people.

Max: What do you think of Marilyn Manson?

Damian: I just try my hardest not to think of them at all.

Curt: Again, it's just a different scene. It's just not my cup of tea.

James: I've never really heard much of their stuff.

Max: It's kind of funny to see these really rich Manson fans go shopping with their parents for their black leather outfits.

James: Those kids are also always bitchin' about how bad their life is. "God dammit, dad won't buy me a new car!" If I had that kind of life I wouldn't be bitching at all. I'd be like thank you!!!, free stuff. I don't have to work.

Curt: Actually I got a question for you, what do you think of Courtney Love getting tons of plastic surgery and totally changing her face and body. What do you think of that?



Max: I didn't know about that.

Curt: She looks totally different. She changed her face completely.

Max: Who writes the lyrics ?

Curt: Mick writes most of them, but everyone contributes to the songs though.

Max: What band, dead or living, would you like to play with?

Curt: I'd love to play with the Clash.

James: Bob Marley would be nice.

Damian: Minor Threat, that would be good.

Curt: Minor Threat, Black Flag and The Misfits. The bill would be all those bands and they'll be opening for us.

James: Also another definite band would be The Ramones. We've just seen those guys so many times, I'd love to play with them.

Max: What's the drink of choice in the band?

Curt: My favorite beer is Rolling Rock.

Todd: Gin & tonics, greyhounds, kamikazes, shots of yegemiester. I basically drink everything. I don't drink beer.

Damian: Wow, he doesn't drink beer, I never noticed that. I go more for like Rolling Rock and screwdrivers.

Max: Olde "E".

James: Olde "E" is some baaaaad shit. Will have you puking all over the place.

Max: Any punk rock fantasies or longterm goals?

James: I wanna pay my rent.

Curt: I wanna pay my rent and just keep on playing the music that I like playing. We don't want to work anymore, we just want to get out there and play music.

Damian: Maybe, go to Europe.

James: It would also be nice to have a real label on the east coast, that actually cares about the bands.

Curt: We've got one, Eyeball.

James: Maybe something like Lookout! or Epitaph.

Max: What's the personal meaning of punk to you?

Curt: Just doing your own thing yourself. A lot of people try to tie money into it, but it's not about the money. Punk is like, if you do a record you have full control of what's going on and having control, so it's your record and not some label's. Do it your own fucking way. It's not about just talking about things it's going out and doing them.

James: My idea of it is; I mean I wasn't around in '77, but I feel you should just take what you have and make the best of it. Trying to achieve what you want out of life and how far you want to get. Just making yourself happy. Unity and togetherness.



Curt :It's a fucking way of life.

Max: People talk shit about the scene, but it still is a united place where people come together and just hang out more or less.

Curt:All this segregation is bullshit. But actually things are like ten times better now,than they were when the Radicts were around. All these trends are such bullshit.

Damian:People call me a skinhead just because I shave my head and have these boots. "You look like a skinhead, you're a skinhead'" (in whiny old lady voice.)

Max:Was Mick drunk tonight?

Curt :Nope,he doesn't drink before shows.

James:That's just his usual expression, he walks down the street like that.

Curt:The best story about Mick is one night we got really fucked up and then at like 5 o'clock in the morning Mick was walking around second avenue. He slept in a trash pile once. We don't know why, he just does these things.

Max:Any other interesting stories?

James:There are tons of them. The best one is probably the Boston story. We went to a bar and we didn't have that much money, so we blew all our cash.

There was this weird guy who was buying us shots of tequila.

Curt:I think he was eyeing Damian.

James:This guy was really really weird and so he keeps on buying us shots of tequila and we get completely wasted. Also that time was the first time where we had a hotel to stay at. Murphy's Law was staying one floor

below us. We bought these weird 32 can cases and we got totally wasted. When Murphy's Law got there we were drunk already and then Mick sprayed beer all over Todd Youth's bed at like six in the morning and we had to play a show the next day, but it was awesome anyway.

Max:Closing comments.

Curt:Get off your ass and do it.

Max: Thanks for the interview.



TRIPFACE.

I met up with the band after a show at Cbgb's. Present for the interview were Jay(guitar) and Scott(vocals). Besides being a great band (who is unbelievable live,) Tripface are also really good guys. Since this interview took place Tripface did an east coast tour with labelmates Indecision. Their debut album "Some Part Sorrow" was released on Exit records. I highly recommend everyone who didn't get it yet, to do so.

Max: Can you introduce yourself and say what you do?

Scott: Pete - I play drums.

Jay: Dave - and I play bass.

Scott: Hi, I'm actually Scott and I do vocals and write the lyrics.

Jay: I play guitar.

Max: Tell me a brief history of the band, I hear there's been tons of changes.

Scott: With us there's not even a brief history. There's six million name, instrument and whatever changes.

Jay: There's just no such thing as a brief history in this band.

Scott: Let's just leave it at that.

Jay: For us that's a really bad question.

Max: To start off can you talk about the 7 inch and the album which you have coming out?

Jay: I'll talk about the album he can talk about the 7 inch.

Scott: Our 7 inch is out on Exit records which is a part of Wreckage records. It's just four of our songs. It's not our favorite release. We weren't too happy with the recording. I don't think it captures our sound at all. But, it's cool. I'm happy that Exit did it.

Jay: The album is coming out in the middle of December and it has some of our newer stuff on it. It also sounds a hell of a lot more how we expect ourselves to sound. It's got a lot of the stuff we played tonight.

Scott: The heavy metal stuff. (laughs)

Jay: Yeah, the heavy metal rocking stuff.

Max: Speaking of metal, how do you feel about the bands that play pure metal like Earth



Crisis?

Scott: I think, all this you must be old school to play hardcore is total bullshit. I think that's bullshit cause the bands that I first got into were the fucking Cro-Mags and Leeway and no one could tell me that they didn't have metal in them. Some of them used to have long hair and shit. Agnostic Front-people used to think they were metal.

Jay: One and the same.

Scott: Yeah, metal is pretty much cheesy hardcore. To me it's all the same, I like both.

Jay: Also I don't think it's so much the actual sound, there's a lot more to it. You know some people say the message. It's just so much more than music. You know when someone asks you what hardcore is don't you have a hard time telling them. Well what does it sound like? "Well, uhh...." It's that kind of thing.

Max: Are you into that stuff?

Jay: I'm pretty much into everything. If it's good stuff, I'll probably be into it.

Scott is into some weird crazy stuff.

Scott: Yeah, I like a lot of old school hardcore and a lot of the newer stuff I'm not really into. I'm more into bands like Roarshack and Fewer Remains and other crazy shit like that.

Max: You guys are all from Long Island?

Scott: Yeah.

Max: What do you think of the scene up there?

Scott: Awesome.

Jay: It's just like any other scene there are a lot of good things and there are bad things. Now I think the good things far outweigh the bad, so it's good. There are a lot of kids into it.

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Scott: It's one of the best scenes. A lot of bands that come to Long Island from out of state will say it's one of the best places to play.

Jay: I think Long Island has kind of a bad rep in the city or at least it seems that way. There's like this negative vibe about Long Island in the city. But when bands play there they usually say it's really awesome.

Max: Why do you think a lot of Long Island bands don't branch out more?

Jay: That's their own choice. They don't pursue anything and just play their home town. That happens everywhere. Not so much in New York because it's right in the middle of everything. A lot of Long Island bands don't get anywhere past the city.

Scott: The more I look at it, the more I think Long Island just segregates itself from New York. A lot of people in Long Island think that New York is just tough. They don't understand that it's everything and you should make it what you want it to be and you can make it anything. New York Hardcore is fucking hardcore no matter what.

Max: A lot of people are close-minded and separate NYHC and LIHC and NJHC, do you think there are any differences between them?

Scott: A lot of the same kids go to the same shows.

Jay: Yeah, probably half the kids here today are Long Island kids and the rest are from Jersey. There's a very small portion of kids in the scene who are actually from the city. Most people from the city don't even come to shows. NYHC is the combination of kids from LI, Jersey, PA, Conn and the city.

Max: How often do you guys play shows?

Jay: Right now we're playing everyweek. This week we played like three shows. On Thursday we played with Merauder and Earth Crisis. Pretty much the same show and we did this same exact show yesterday in Connecticut. Now we're here.

Max: What are your jobs, hobbies, school?

Jay: Except for Dave we're all going to school. I'm going to school right now and I'm studying physical therapy, as ridiculous as that sounds for someone in a hardcore band to be doing.

Scott: I go to school at the University of Hartford same as our drummer Pete. I go to school for secondary education in history. Right now I do this thing called Education on Main st. and I go into inner-city schools in Hartford. Hartford is actually a really fucked up city. I teach and help teachers and assist them.

Scott: Our hobby is StarWars.

Max: Yeah a lot of people are really into that.

Jay: But with us it's beyond an obsession.

Scott: Me and my drummer are also computer geeks. We have like ten million hobbies. (Now my twenty year old dumbass sister decides to tape herself singing into my tape recorder almost ruining the whole interview. Fortunately the good ol'



recorder dies out on her after a few seconds like it always does on me. Anyway only a

few seconds were lost. I don't know why I felt the need to tell you that.)

Max: Any tour plans?

Scott: We haven't done any formal tours.

Jay: This winter school break we're going out as far as Florida.

Scott: Indecision might be coming along.

Max: What do you think of the punk and hardcore scenes being so separated? You don't even see punks at hardcore shows and the other way around.

Scott: I'll be there. I go to all the punk shows and my other band played ABC NO RIO. I love the Blanks and bands like that. And I'll go to punk shows and I'm this little geeky sXe kid among all these punks. But it's awesome I love punk music I think it's fat as shit.

Max: Casualties?

Scott: Casualties are the shit, especially old Casualties. It sucks that it's so separated.

Jay: I think a lot of punks don't like the bands so they don't go. I don't think it's so much of a separation thing

Scott: I don't know about that, cause I know a lot of punk kids who like the music, but don't go to shows because they think the people at shows are dicks. Also for some strange reason a lot of sXe kids like bands like Anal Cunt and Man is the Bastard, but they don't go to the shows because they don't want to deal with all that shit.

Max: Do you have any weird show stories to tell?

Scott: Dave's gear always stops working at least one song every show.

Jay: The wackiest thing that ever happened to us was the second time we played Cb's and we parked right near it and went in for like five minutes to see where we should bring in our equipment. And we came out 15 minutes later and it was all gone. They took every single thing we had. We were in shock just looking at each other. We started looking up and down the street. They couldn't be far. Everyone at Cb's just took off and went up and down the street searching trying to find stuff. We figured it just happened. We looked for an hour and didn't find a single thing. We came back and were all miserable. I was inside just sitting on the floor, and to sit there is pretty disgusting. Anyway then our came in and they parked a few blocks from there and they found a huge pile of equipment. Everyone ran there and we got every single thing back. We lost everything for like three hours and then got everything back. That was the weirdest thing ever.

Max: Scott, during the show you said something about your stupid political views and ideas, what was that about?

Scott: They're not stupid, I'm just really bullheaded about my political ideas. Like I am somewhat pro-life and my girlfriend isn't and we always argue about shit like that. And she's really cool for not dumping me yet for being a jerk all the time.

Max: If you're all sXe, then where does the name Tripface come from?

Scott: The first generation of Tripface I was the only sXe one in the band. The other guys were always talking about tripping and they were all more into rave. We had to change our name from Godhead, because there was another band with that name so we just changed it to Tripface and it kind of stuck with us.

Max: What's the farthest you guys played out?

Jay:Maine.

Scott: Which was fucking awesome. You wouldn't think they'd have a scene up there, but it's awesome.

Jay: It was an awesome scene.

Scott: We pull up and there are all these crusty punks wearing like Drop Dead shirts. I'm like talking to them about music and in the back of my head I'm thinking "These guys are gonna fucking hate us." The show was amazing, people went nuts. I don't think they get enough bands up there. It was a really cool scene, everybody got into every single band even if they didn't know them. It was one of my favorite places to play.

(We get into a long discussion about Westchester and socialism in Russia.)

Max: Closing comments.

Scott: I want to thank our friends in Motive for being great friends and coming to everyone of our fucking shows cause if they didn't come out we'd be playing to no one.

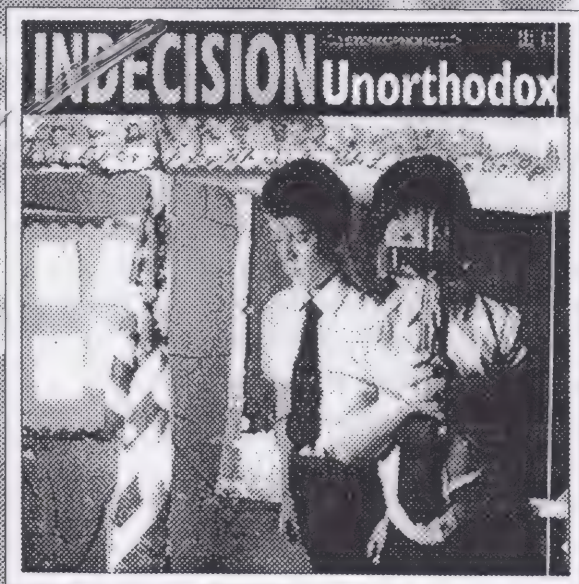
Jay: Everyone from the city who comes out to watch us play.

Contact : Tripface
P.O. Box 254
Laurel,NY 11948.

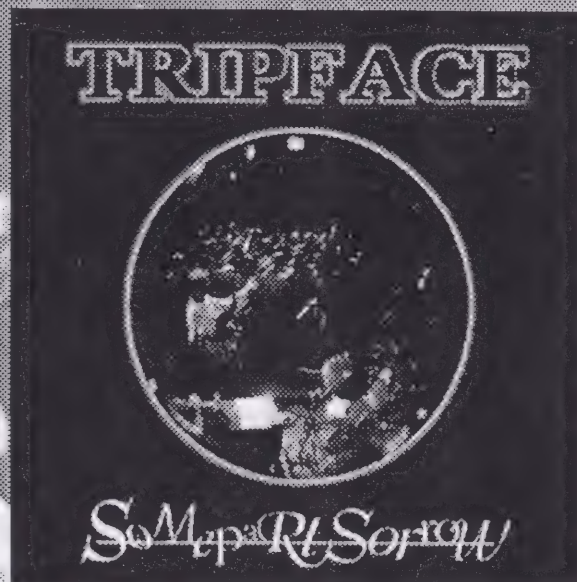
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Dan's Star Wars Ramblings

Since Star Wars has come out many people have tried to take their crack at using the name and writing books. These writers paid money so that they could use the Star Wars name to sell books. Star Wars itself was a screenplay written by George Lucas. These



books that have been written have nothing to do with Star Wars other than the names. I cant believe that the Lucas Arts company lets these books get published and sold. They are steeling the spotlight and making people forget what Star Wars was all about. Star Wars was one fucking awesome movie, in my opinion nothing will compare to it.

About the new movies that came out (The trilogy Special Edition) some say that this is a cheap way to make a buck. Some also say that doing this would be tampering with a classic. I for one am all for it. First of all about tampering with a classic it is George Lucas movie he can do whatever the fuck he wants with it. If he wants to put all them into clown costumes he can its his movie, it might suck dick but its his movie that sucks dick. As for making a buck, I almost shit a brick, I was so excited when I heard they were re-releasing the old star wars. I was too young to remember weather or not I even saw the originals on the big screen. You want to know who re-released stuff to

make a couple million dollars, Disney. How many fucking times does one planet have to see Fantasia. And guess what they don't make any improvements, so if you want to complain about squeezing all the possible profit out of old movies go talk to Disney.

I also hear that soon they are going to be coming out with Shadows of the Empire. This was a book written by Timothy Zahn. Supposedly they are coming out with a movie late this year maybe early 1998. I might be wrong. I have a feeling if they do it will be a good movie, but i think it will probably not capture what Star Wars is all about. Star Wars captured the eyes of people in the seventies with special effects. But it still captures the hearts of people in the nineties with the most basic story of any movie I've seen. So in my opinion the maker will probably forget about the cinematography and directing and think about the special effects too much.

If you got a computer and you care to comment on what I said, or maybe have information about Shadows of the Empire E-mail me at DWSimmonds@aol.com.

HOME 33

This interview was conducted on Sunday Jan 5, downstairs at 7 Willow st, in Portchester, NY. Home 33 had just played a show there with V.O.D. Most of the members were present, but all at various times. The only one that was there the whole time was Ryan(vocals). The other members are James(bass), Alan(guitar), and Rob(drums).

Max: Can you introduce yourself and say what you do?

James: I'm James and I play bass. It's weird like I work a job and at night I go to band practice, like 3 times a week, try to get shows and that's pretty much my whole life. That's all I do.

Ryan: I'm Ryan and I sing.

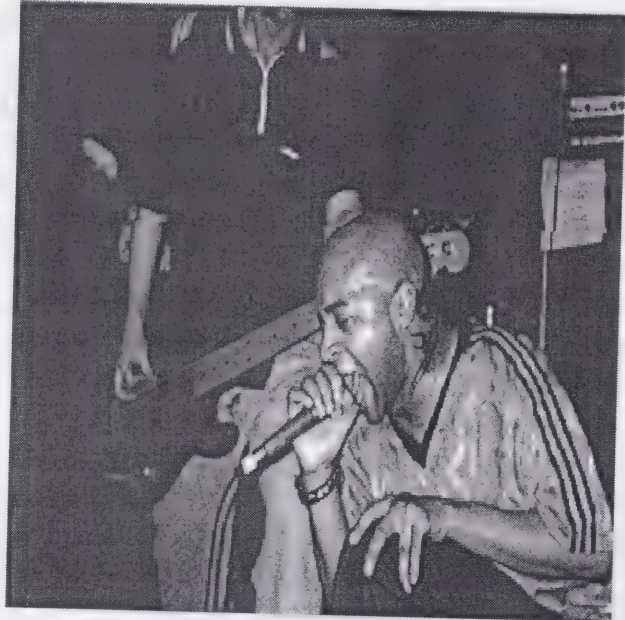
Max: How did you guys hook up with Another Planet records?

Ryan: They came to a show that we did in this little bar called Nightingales on 2nd avenue. They were impressed with the energy of the show. We used to have good shows there.

Max: Who was it, Fred?

Ryan: Yeah, Fred Feldman.

Max: What's next recording wise?



Ryan: We're working and we have a whole bunch of new songs. We're gonna do an E.P.

James: That's what we want to. We're definitely going to have something out soon. We just have to figure out contract negotiations right now.

Max: Did you guys tour at all with Jody's Coterie?

Ryan: The furthest that we went was like North Carolina and Virginia and all those places. Now it's starting to get really good for us there. We went down there recently and it was like a snowboard show, sponsored by



was like a snowboard show, sponsored by Burton, so it was pretty cool.

Max: Did you guys get to ride at all?

James: No, but I really wanted to. There we played with Big Dixie, they work at the snowboard park, but we were off really late and had to leave really early the next day. But I wanna go back down there and try it.

Max: Talk about your jobs&hobbies.

Ryan: I sell clothes to punk rockers all day, it's pretty boring.

Max: You get to stand around all day and hit on trendy girls all day.

Ryan: Yeah, you know hit on girls, talk to friends.

James: Rob, the drummer works some place. He used to be really into skateboarding and now he does like jewelry design someplace. Alan works in a recording studio and I work in a lab. I'm like an environmental lab technician.

Ryan: I don't really have any hobbies, I just buy a lot of music. Waste all my money on CD's. Spend hours and hours at Generation.

Max: I'm always depressed when I go in there because there are so many things I want but can't have.

Max: What do you guys think of the Simpsons?

James: I love the Simpsons, they're like my favorite show.

Ryan: I'm not a big Simpsons fan.

Max: I'm greatly dissappointed in you.



Ryan: But I am looking for that black Bart shirt. There he has dreads and stuff.

James: We all like Seinfeld too.

Ryan: Seinfeld is the shit.

Max: Bad Brains are the main influence on the band?

Ryan: That's the band that everybody in the band likes.

James: It's more of a uniting influence. There are a lot different influences in our music. One thing I can say is that everyone in the band listens to a lot of different types of music.

Max: And it shows.

James: I mean we all like hardcore, but

everyone's musical taste, is just anything.

Ryan: My biggest influence is like punk.

Max: Then why did you cut off your mohawk? (sarcastically)

James: That's the forbidden question.

Ryan: Say that, it's the forbidden question.

Max: Who writes the music?

Ryan: We all pretty much do.

James: Pretty much, everything we do comes off as being collective. Someone usually starts off with an idea and the idea gets worked from. So usually its just an idea evolving into something.

Max: What's the chemistry like in the band?

James: Well, basically you start off with a lot of hostility...

Ryan: It's just that we're freaks.

James: Yeah that's pretty much it, we're all kind of freaks, in different ways.

Ryan: We all were geeks and nerds at one point.

James: We don't care, we're proud of that.

Max: Who is the closest one to insanity?

Ryan: I think James is, cause he starts rumors about everyone.

James: I think I might be, even though I might appear to be the most un insane, but I'm probably the most insane.

Ryan: Try following him to a show.

James: I've been abducted by aliens since I was a young kid.

Ryan: He actually believes that you'd think he's joking.

James: I grow pot in the woods too, that's one of my hobbies. I also enjoy deep sea fishing. I also wanna start snowboarding and in the summer I want to try surfing. Have you ever done that?

Max: No, haven't had a chance to. Ryan, yesterday you wanted to talk about the scene.

Ryan: Yeah,well New York is pretty much all I know. I think its cool when you go outside New York everyone respects you because you are from New York. At

the same time I think its rather fucked up in New York. Since there are labels and shit which you have to follow in order to fit in and we seem to stick out like a sore thumb on every bill that we play. We think we're hardcore, but other people don't.

Max: What do you think of a lot of people saying that you guys are like the new realm of hardcore?

Ryan: I really don't want to be lumped into anything, but in New York, I guess you have to.

James: I don't know when I look at the scene now I think it's good and bad. It's



good in the sense that the New York scene is really diverse. There's a lot of different bands like there's the old school and the new school and whatever, so there's a lot out there. But there's less focus, so it's a lot harder for bands. Since there are so many different things going on.

Ryan: Also a lot of punk bands won't play with us because they think we're metal and what kind of politics is that.

Max: If you could change one thing about the scene what would it be?

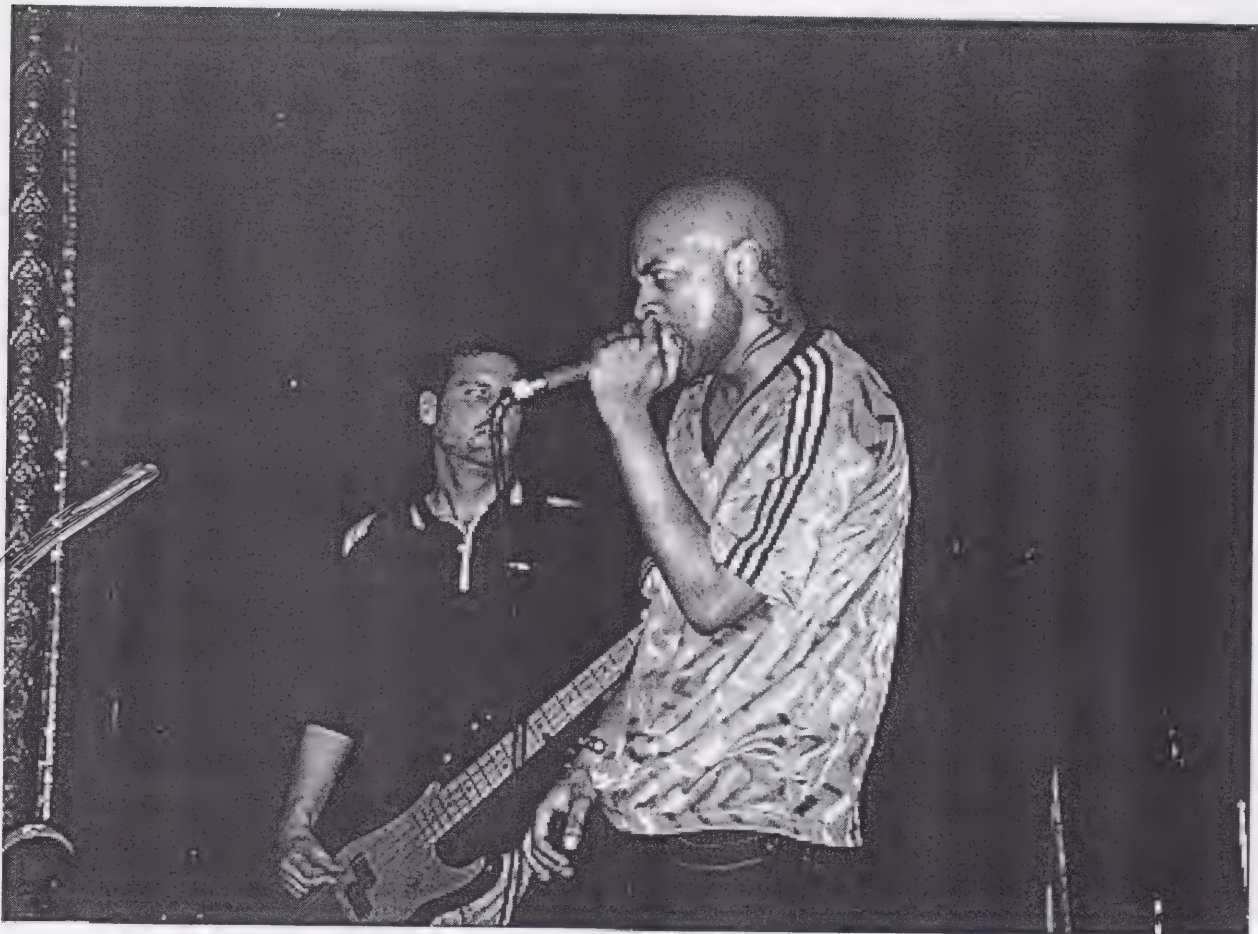
Ryan: That people wouldn't put so much emphasis on labels and like what you like. Every band play together. Classifications shouldn't be a big deal.

Max: Do you think there are not enough places in New York to play?

Ryan: For punk and hardcore yeah. It sucks because a lot of clubs don't do hardcore shows because that attracts young kids and the clubs are usually 21+ and don't want to do that. Only Cb's, only Tyler.Wetlands got security now and it sucks. I know many bands that just want to move out of New York, cause there are no places to play. Also up-and-coming hardcore bands have such a hard time. Just people are afraid of hardcore.

Max: What impact would you like to have on the scene as a band?

Ryan: I want for people to fill their anger. I want people to get upset with



us.

Max: What are your favorite bands right now?

Ryan: My favorite band right now is this band called Stem, Shutdown I like. Also they're aren't that new but my favorite band is V.O.D. I also like the Deftones. I love Into Another. I love Madball too and I like H2O. I like L.E.S. Stitches.

James: Yeah, I like V.O.D. a lot. Orange 9. I liked Shift a lot when I saw them here.

Max: Were there a lot of people?

James: No it wasn't that many, but I think it had something to do with the fact that it was the same day as the AF show.

Max: Also a lot of kids don't go to shows in Westchester.

James: I grew up in Westchester and when I was growing up, there was nothing. I would've killed to have something like this. Like a place that has shows right around the corner. There used to be never any shows in Westchester, it was hard when you're just getting into music. It was great to discover shows in the city. Westchester has always been hard. I always think that in Long Island and Jersey the scenes are so much bigger. It's just not that many people are into it. (James has to leave.)

Max: You played a song tonight which you said was on a movie soundtrack, can you elaborate on that?



Ryan: Yeah, I don't know when it's coming out. It's a movie called "Sam", I think it's done by Last Resort films. Orange 9 is on the soundtrack, CIV, Shift.

Max: Is it going to be in theaters?

Ryan: It should be. Right now they're doing screenings at Walt Disney I think. I play a squatter. Played a punk rocker, I still had my mohawk.

Max: Did you get payed?

Ryan: No, I get payed when it gets picked up.

Max: Why did you change the name from Home to Home 33?

Ryan: 'Cause we got beef with this hippy band Home. We wanted a name that

didn't sound like generic hardcore. So people couldn't figure out what type of music it was. And like the last line of this Jane's Addiction song is "home". So we were like "Ooohh, that doesn't sound like a hardcore name." But, then Home from Florida wouldn't give it up. They ripped up our stickers, caused shit with us and moved to New York and I'm after them. They just moved to New York. I'm gonna go to their shows and heckle them cause they're not gonna know it's me. They're like some hippy shit band, like Hootie and the Blowfish or shit. Pretty much what they're doing is the manager is trying to diss us and rip up our stickers and stuff. I'm gonna go to Brownies with a bunch of people and heckle them.

Max: What state of mind are the lyrics written in?

Ryan: Confusion, isolation, anger.

Max: Talk about some weird shows or bad shows that you guys played?

Ryan: We've had tons of bad shows, tons of weird shows. Our worst shows were probably in Connecticut, where we played with Hatebreed and Dismay. Those are probably our worst shows and those bands are really good and I like those bands, but for some strange reason the kids in Connecticut don't dance unless it's sXe. I don't know maybe when we go there for the fourth time it will be a lot better who knows. Just Pennsylvania and Connecticut have these huge sXe scenes.

Max: Do you guys have any strong personal convictions?

Ryan: I am a vegetarian, but I don't preach it. I feel whatever is right for you, is right for you. I admire people who are sXe and have that conviction, but when they start getting a little too preachy. I think that's wrong. If anything I try to keep people away from heroin, I've seen it fuck up so many of my friends.

Max: How do you think you guys progressed as a band?

Ryan: I think we've progressed because we're playing with V.O.D.

Max: What about as individuals?

Ryan: Well definitely. We went from playing generic hardcore bands to bands that write more introspective stuff. We all came from bands that preached unity, but now it's more introspective. We definitely improved as musicians. I progressed from just punk singing and singing. I try to different things now and not just scream.

Max: How did you get into body piercing?

Ryan: I think my first piercing was at the top of my ear. That shit hurt so bad.

Max: My didn't hurt at all. I did it myself too.

Ryan: I'm kind of weird with piercings. I like them, but working in that store that I work at I really hate when people do them just to be cool. They're like this really doesn't mean anything. You see with like the Mansu tribe, it's more than that. It's to stand out from other people by having a plate in your lip. It symbolized individuality. I think that's how it started out for me and for a lot of people I know, it was a spiritual thing. But now it's totally getting exploited. People are like "My dreadlocks don't mean anything." They don't even realize what it means to Rasta's. It's a part of this whole struggle. That God is going to take them up to heaven, so they need really strong hair and strong locks to pull them up to heaven. And people don't know that, they're like I just got these because they're cool." It's a struggle of those people trying to separate themselves from the Africans and the white men, that were calling

them dreadful and that's how the word dreadlock came about.

Max: Does the number 33 mean anything?

Ryan: The 33 means a lot to me. I have this friend and we had this joke in our band. And we used to get drunk and on the back of the bottles there was 33 and we didn't know why it was there. Also when Home from Florida wouldn't give up the name, Another Planet was like "Call yourself Home NYC" And we were like "Nah, Home 33" They were "what does that mean?" It means a lot the year that Christ died, the year the nazis came to power. It's just a weird number that keeps on popping up everywhere. This firetruck almost ran me over and there was like 33 on the back and now it's following me around. It kind of represents the friendship I had with this kid.

Max: What do you think of Stillsuit signing to TVT? I'm really happy for them.

Ryan: I'm happy for them cause they're old friends of mine. Julian is an old friend of mine and he's like a brother to me. I was having a talk with him and he felt that Home 33 and Stillsuit were like the underdogs of the scene and we both have been doing it for so long. He said that things are going to get better and when I heard them doing something with TVT, I was really happy. I think that's like the first hardcore project that TVT has. They're such a good band and Julian deserves it he's been working hard for such a long time.

Max: Are you into generic hardcore?

Ryan: I love punk I'm the one trying to keep it in Home 33. I love punk. I've gotten so much shit at Stitches shows because people are like "You dance hardcore." Once at the Continental this guy got pissed cause I knocked over this girls' drink. I said I was sorry and told her she shouldn't stand that close to the pit. She was like "You don't care about anyone but yourself." And this guy breaks a bottle and starts coming at me with this piece of glass. So I had to leave the show. It was fucked. But I've been in trouble at so many of their shows. People just don't want to dance. I'm also really happy for the Stitches cause they've been working really hard. Mick is a lunatic, I've seen him stumbling down the street at like 6 in the morning and I don't know how he was still walking.

Max: I heard about that.

Ryan: They're on the movie soundtrack too.

Max: What's the movie about?

HOME 33

Friday Sept. 13th w/ illness

Summer's
over-
I Love
Hardcore-
I want to die!



HOME 33

FRI DEC 27 TH

W/DEFIANT ONES @ 9:30 P
(DOC & DARYL FROM BAD BI
CONEY ISLAND HIGH
15 ST. MARKS PL-212-674-7959

SUN. JAN 5TH

W/V.O.D @2PM
7 WILLOW STREET,
PORTCHESTER, NY -914-939-1474

SUN JAN 26TH



Ryan: It's about this girl who has like trouble at home, she's like molested by her father and she runs away from home and meets all these punks and Damian from the Stitches is one of them. It's cool cause the scene with Damian. They're playing H2O "my friends look out for me like family," and I kick the door to a squat. He has the big green hair and shit. It should be awesome, I can't wait for it to come out in theaters.

Max: Do you think the people will accept a movie about squatters and living on the street?

Ryan: No, it's not like that. It's kind of like a trendy suburbia movie that like a kid walking through a mall with a skateboard will love. I mean the acting isn't that great, but it's a cool movie. I think what they were trying to do is expose the people and the trendies to the Lower East Side and to what the hardcore and punk scenes are about.

Max: Where do you see yourself as a band in ten years?

Ryan: Hopefully we'll have a couple of records out, have a bigger following. Go to Europe. I wanna be like H2O and V.O.D., or like Murphy's Law who get to go to Amsterdam and smoke a lot of pot. I want to be where those bands are at. You know what I mean.

Rob: Hopefully just getting along and maybe making music.

Max: Tell some weird or bad things you guys have been compared to musically?

Ryan: The best one was this one kid in Virginia was like "You guys sound like Minor Threat and Dead Kennedys" (in a great hick accent.) I don't where he heard that. We've been compared to Helmet, Fugazi.

Max: I saw you guys compared to Voivod.

Ryan: Yeah and you know what, I have no clue what they sound like. I wanna buy it now because of that.

Max: You wanna ask yourself something?

Rob: Good question. Actually I'm gonna ask you, is there ever a time where it's like a natural flow and not a constant struggle? (I have no clue what he meant, maybe the band-ed)

Ryan: I think the only time is when I'm up on stage it's a natural flow. But as far as getting the shows and writing the songs I feel like it's a constant struggle.

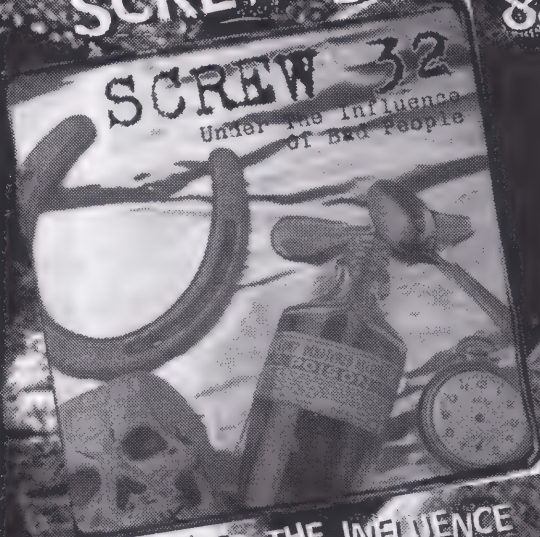
Max: Closing comments.

Ryan: Shoutouts to Burndown, -2 degrees, V.O.D.

P.S. Unfortunately since this interview took place Home 33 broke up. They were a great band and will be missed.

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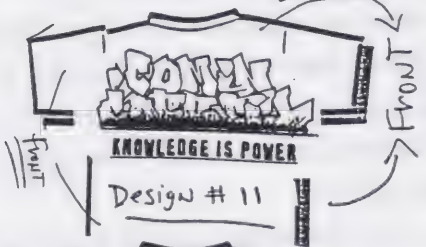
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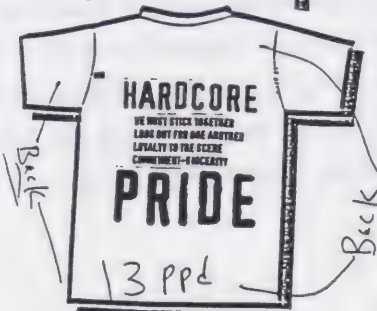
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COMIN CORRECT - Knowledge Is Power, CD. This band is currently made up of members from KRUTCH and 25 TA LIFE. I think that the lineup is an ongoing change that is intentional. Musically, this is pretty diverse with songs that are each different. I can't categorize this because it has many influences from song to song. Old school, new school, a bit of metal, a bit of post-core and all rolled into a pretty rad and positive release. Hardcore pride, unity, equality, individuality, and DIY ethics are written throughout this badboy. (LU)
 (Back Ta Basics, 79 Third Ave. 2nd Floor, Paterson, NJ 07514)

PUPPET SHOW.

About a month ago I was kicked out of my school for illegal residency (living out of district). So, to make a long story short I was forced to look for a new school in the middle of the year. Most schools have a policy of not taking mid-year admissions or at least that's what they told me, so I was put in a fairly shitty position. Anyway I'll start getting to my point. I visited many schools. These visits were unbearable. Every one of these 'interviews' was identical; me sitting in a chair and listening to some administrator talk with a great deal of enthusiasm about the many rules that the school has to offer. This was pure torture as I was sitting there biting my lip, desperately trying to keep my mouth shut and not go off about all the bullshit they were telling me. For awhile I thought that these yuppies actually believed in all these rules, or disciplinary policies as they called them, until one woman opened my eyes onto the reality and it kinda scared me. This woman was an administrator with a fairly high position in one of these schools which will remain nameless. This school had the most ridiculous dress code. Kids have to wear a fucking suit to school (it wasn't a catholic school either), even in the summer. I'm sitting there falling asleep as its pretty early when she starts talking about something which was pretty interesting. She starts going off on how stupid the dress code is. She talks for about twenty minutes about basically how the dress code is bullshit. This really got to me. To start off I'll infer that she's not the only one who feels the same way. Also she occupies one of the highest positions in the school and she's been there for a long time, so she must have some authority and respect as well as power. The thing that bothered me the most is that having this power she doesn't use it for any meaningful purpose, she doesn't stand up for what she believes in and doesn't change anything. She's a fucking puppet. She goes along with everyone without speaking her mind. The scary thing is that this isn't a strange occurrence it's the way society works. It's a cycle. This is seen everywhere from this school to as far as the White House. This is scary: the progression of human beings is slowed down if the unpopular voice is never heard most of the time. People don't speak their minds in fear of embarrassment, the fear of being on the other side and etc. Our society rotates around this little system. People are hung by a string like puppets, the string being the popular decision. Further it is necessary to admit that the popular decision isn't always the right one.. Therefore the right decision is at times not even considered as a solution. This may already have cost us many opportunities, cures and other progressions.

I know this whole essay is kind of a stretch considering that it started with an administrator in some school and finished with the slowing down of human advancement, but it seems pretty clear to me and I hope it's clear to you too. Also this little incident kind of made me appreciate the scene more where people speak their mind more and ~~and~~ don't allways allow their voice to be oppressed by the popular view.

BANNER OF HOPE

This interview was conducted over the phone with Jen, the singer for NYC's own Banner of Hope. Soon they will be releasing two 7 inches and appearing on a bunch of comps. So make sure you check those out and go see them live, if you get a chance to.

Max: Introduce yourself and the band.

Jen: I'm Jen and I sing for Banner of Hope, Lucky plays guitar, John plays bass and Matt plays drums.

Max: History of the band.

Jen: As far as I know it, the first incarnation of Banner of Hope was Neil singing, Matt on drums, Rich on bass and John on guitar. Then Neil left the band and I joined the band.

Max: How long ago was that?

Jen: Probably two years ago now.

Max: How did Lucky get in the band?

Jen: He and Richie met at a show and I had known him previously. And he's been playing with us since last winter, I think. For the last six months Richie has been playing with Violent Society and that started taking up a lot of his time. He's now playing with them full-time and John switched to bass.

Max: What do you have out recording wise and what's coming out?

Jen: With Neil singing they recorded a 7 inch and there are tracks on the Pogo Attack comp and I guess those are the tracks where everyone knows the band from. With me singing we recorded a 7 inch last may and it's coming out or due out on Pogo Punk records and that's Mike from the Blanks's label. We were told that they were pressed and now we were told about the test pressing so I don't know when that's coming out. We're also gonna start recording our next 7 inch and some tracks which are gonna be on a bunch of comps soon. I think this weekend.

Max: What do you guys do for jobs and hobbies ?

Jen: Matt is an electrician and he's really into rebuilding old cars and is into water sports. Matt drives a truck , he does these overnight trips. He's also in a few other bands he sings for another band called The Hemotrators (The name was hard to understand, so it's probably



wrong-ed.) who are really good. He also likes things like old cars and stuff like that. Lucky is also in another band and he's unemployed and spends all of his free time playing guitar, he's also multi talented. I work at a comic book store and go to school part time.

Max: How do you feel about the Simpsons?

Jen: I feel strongly in favor of the Simpsons.

Max: What's your favorite Star Wars?

Jen: You know, I've seen them so many times that they all melt into one movie in some extent, but my favorite would definitely have to be "Empire".

Max: Have you seen the new ones?

Jen: I've seen them both multiple times. All my favorite stuff happens in "Empire". "Star Wars" was the one that had a definite beginning and end. Where "Empire" was the middle chunk.

Max: Who do you think is stronger Yoda or the Emperor?

Jen: That's another one that I get excused from, cause I've read so much other peripheral crap outside the movie, and there is just so much more written about the Emperor than there is about Yoda. So there's an uneven amount of knowledge going around.

Max: What are your thoughts on that bomb threat at the Casualties release party, that you played?



Jen: All I know is that they were telling everyone to get out, get out, get out. There's a bomb threat. I laughed a little bit. I walked outside and got cold. They let me go upstairs. So I sat there and stole a little bit from every pitcher. Drank a lot of beer real fast. The whole thing was just really silly. I'm sure it was just some stupid unpolitical prank.

Max: What do you think of the scene now ?

Jen: There is definitely not enough places to play and it's also very sceny (is that a real word?-ed) and political and I'm not like that at all. It also seems people don't go to shows to see bands anymore and that's sad.

Max: How do you see the female presence in the scene? Do you think it's declining or rising?

Jen: There's definitely a lot more girls around. But it's weird cause a lot of the

time they spend all their time in the bathroom, instead of watching bands. A lot of girls are kind of like girlfriends. There are a lot of cool girls, but there are also a lot of them who are just there with their boyfriends and they're the ones who I can't even have a square discussion about music with.

Max: What's the furthest out you played?

Jen: Probably Boston.

Max: How was that ?

Jen: We played there two times and both shows were wonderful. I think The Ratt is one of the best places to play. That was probably my second favorite show of all time.

Max: Tell some dirt about Lucky's Ricki Lake appearance?

Jen: I don't know very much about it because I was only acquainted with him when he did it. I've been with him when he was recognized on the street for it. He won't let me see the tape he keeps dodging me about it and I know that they had a Ricky update and he sent something and I don't know if that ever aired. Actually it wasn't on Ricky Lake it was on Jenny Jones.

Max: Looking back, what do you think of High school?

Jen: The times I was awake. I try to put it in my past so much in all retrospect. I come from this really small town, that's not on the map. It's very centered. I would never go back to those times, but I think of it as the stuff that shaped me.

Max: What impact would you like to have as a band?

Jen: You know I never really thought about it. We just get together and have fun and enjoy it. Even if we played a show only once in a couple of months, I would still look forward to going to band practice every week, because it's really for myself and not for the scene or anybody else. I don't really like the word "scene". People could be like "That girl is a bitch, let's throw her out of the scene" and I wouldn't want to belong to something like that where people got thrown out of it. So I guess we're kind of selfish and we're just doing it for ourselves.

Max: Switching to something less serious, what's the brew of choice for the band?

Jen: Me, personally. I like McSorley's Dark a lot.

Lucky likes dark beers and I think John is a dark beer drinker as well. Matt is a Grolsh drinker.

Max: If you could play with one band dead or living who would you play with?

Jen: Another tough one. I would really like to play with the Subs, I know they're coming around and I'm really psyched to see them again. It would be amazing to play with Conflict, they're another personal favorite.

Max: Any new bands you're into?

Jen: I love The Unseen, we're really friendly with them, they're great guys and put on a great show. I love their records too. I really like the Lower Class Brats and the stuff they've put out.

Max: What was that song that Lucky sang with The Unseen?

Jen: I think it was "Every Rose Has Its Thorn".

Max: Is that a Poison song?

Jen: It most definitely is.

Max: Is there anything that haunts the band from show to show?

Jen: Matt, our drummer always makes this production about having this perfect set list and getting it perfect and not stopping between songs and not screwing anything up. Yet he's always the one who goes "Oh, I need a brake" and "Oh let's skip this song, I can't play it". It usually works out with me and Matt having big fights on stage and everyone getting lost, so we'll skip songs. We lose our rhythm and the whole set gets divided. That's still very difficult to get away from.

Max: Any good or bad shows that stand out in your mind?

Jen: We always have fun playing Stalag 13 in Philadelphia, even though there are tons of broken bottles there so that one is sort of like a catch 22. Wetlands, well the last time we played there was Skindependence day and that was pretty forgettable, Lucky got jumped and had to go to the hospital, so that was a pretty bad one. They opted not to use our tracks for the Radical Records Skindependence, Oi Skampillation type thing cause it was just a band disaster. I don't even know how the recording sounds. My favorite show we ever played was in this kids' backyard. We played



with the Casualties and a few other bands, and it was just incredible. I have never seen so many kids that were so excited to see bands and they were the coolest bunch of people and I've never seen any of them at NY shows, maybe that's just cause the town is so isolated. It was really nice to see different faces. We have a lot of shows like that where we just play basements for 25 people and it's just really fun.

Max: Where would you like to go as a band?

Jen: Well I'd like to get our first 7 inch out before our second one. I don't know I play for the sake of

playing and it's not my big dream to be this big touring rock star. I'll be happy if things stay the steady pace that they are, but I don't know how everyone else feels. I'm not playing to make a career out of it. I do it for enjoyment. I like having a little of both in my life.

Max: If you wanted a career you wouldn't be involved in this type of music anyway.

Jen: True.

Max: What do you think is the biggest problem in the world?

Jen: Too many assholes.



Max: Fair enough. Favorite cartoon character?

Jen: I like Freakazoid a lot, I like Deflater Mouse from the Tick. I like Mr. Burns.

Max: Where do you see punk in 10 years?

Jen: It's probably gonna get underground until the next big trend comes along. It's just gonna keep repeating.

Max: How did you get the name Banner of Hope?

Jen: I wasn't in the band when they picked it, but they got it from an Abrasive Wheels record. We're just the most hopeless, pessimistic, apathetic bunch of people in the world. I kind of believe that.

Max: The name "Banner of Hope" sounds like an Oi name, do people think that a lot?

Jen: Yeah, all the time.

Max: You write the lyrics, right?

Jen: Yeah

Max: What do you try to touch upon?

Jen: It's just a basic exorcism of anger and stuff. It's basically just my outlet for whatever is pissing me off. I'm sure if I wrote something that wasn't so hopelessly angry, I'm sure I'd have more fun with them

Max: Who in the band is closest to insanity?

Jen: John is the silent one, so he's gonna snap one day, and Matt is already there.

Max: Closing comments.

Jen: Hopefully we'll have our 7 inch out soon, check out the Dehumanized cause they're wonderful.

NO REDEEMING SOCIAL VALUE



I met up with the band at Castle Heights in Queens at the Shutdown record release party. Before you read beware this interview is filled with sarcasm and humor and for those of you who don't get it don't read on and try to lighten up a little. For those of you still with me pop open a 40 of Olde E and read on!

Dean: What's up we're *No Redeeming Social Value* and we hate not having brew, except for our new drummer Pete who hates not having weed.

Max: Tell me the history of the band.

Dean: Well we've been a band for about seven years and for about five of those years we sucked real bad. The lineup now is myself Dean on vocals, Kent on guitar, Scott on bass, Pete, our new drummer, and Mike vocals and chicken.

Max: Jobs and Hobbies.

Dean: Pete works at a pharmacy.

Pete: Yeah I'm temporarily working at a pharmacy till we go on tour.

Dean: Currently I'm unemployed until we get back from tour. Hobbies, you know fucking my girl, drinking beer and playing with these guys. Smoking weed when I can.

Pete: Music we listen to a lot of hardcore and all the bands.

Max: What do you think of the Simpsons?

Dean: They're pretty fucking cool, honestly they're the only TV show I watch.

Pete: Best show on television.

Max: What do you think of the scene?

Dean: It's a lot better now, at least we have a scene to play to. It's much better than it used to be.. It sucks cause if we were a rock'n'roll band or a real metal band it would suck cause there is no scene to play to. We have like an audience who likes it and who comes out to shows. Some bands if you come here on any given night will be playing to three people and that sucks, thank God for the hardcore scene we don't have to do that.

Max: Tell some stories about times where you couldn't drink anymore.

Dean: I don't know what it is not to be able to drink anymore. I don't know what that means.

Max: If you could spread a rumor about yourself what would it be?

Dean: That I was great in bed. That all the girls love me.

Pete: I'd say the same thing.

Max: On your European tour coming up, where are you going?

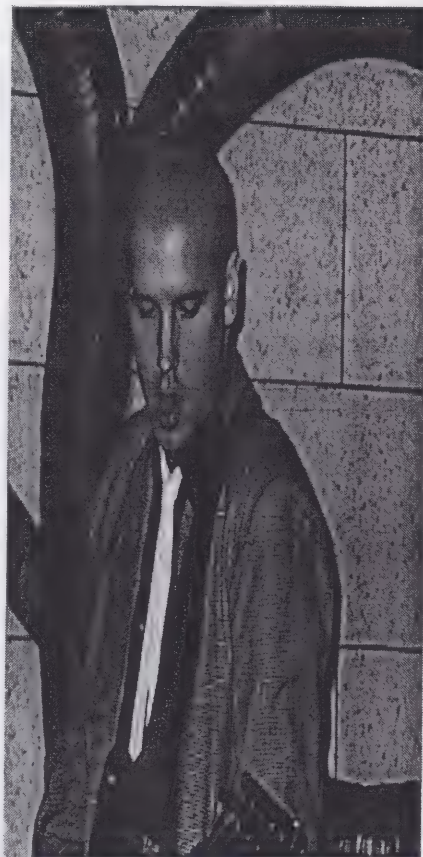
Kent: We're going to Germany, we're going to Austria, to Czechoslovakia, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands. Pretty much every country in Europe except for England.

Max: Are you taking anyone with you?

Dean: It's just us and whatever local bands they'll give us.

Max: What's your next recording?

Dean: It's actually our old recording re-issued that *'Hardcore Your Lousy Ass Off'*



7 inch with a bunch of new songs we basically want to make it available to anyone who wants it.

Max: What celebrities do you hate?

Dean: Mike Dixon from *No Redeeming*.

Kent: I don't know maybe Mark from Shutdown maybe.

Pete: All the guys in Indecision.

Max: How about your favorite female celebrity?

Dean: Drew Barrymore or Bridget Fonda. Wait a minute and Jamie Lee Curtis. One of those three or I wouldn't mind having all three of them

Max: Why limit yourself to just one. What bands are you guys into?

Dean: Shutdown.

Kent: Shutdown.

Pete: Muddlehead.

Scott: Ahh, Step Aside.

Dean: Agnostic Front

Pete: Kiss!!!!

Andy: What's the deal with having short drummers? (At this point Pete starts charging at Andy and trying to threaten him)

Kent: Yeah, what's up with that?

Dean: It makes us feel powerful.

Kent: It's easier to boss him around.

Dean: Those little fuckers they don't give us any lip back to us.

Kent: I bet you couldn't wait to say that.

Pete: Thanks pal.

Max: How does it feel to be rock stars?

Pete: I love it (in super high voice).

Dean: I have less money now than I ever did.

Kent: Excuse me I have to go catch my limo it's waiting for me right outside.

Pete: I'm a rock star and work in a fucking pharmacy.

Max: Could you guys take SFT in a drinking contest?

Dean: Are you kidding that guy is a pussy. I'll take anyone and their brother in a drinking contest. (pauses) Any opposers, any opposition, ... good I didn't think so. I know the truth.

Andy: How many 40s does it take to get you drunk?

Dean: Apparently two to get me drunk but that never stopped me before from drinking more.

Andy: It takes my sister four?

Scott: Wow.

Max: Is she like 600 pounds and does she own two shotput titles.



Dean: That's what I was about to say.

Max: What happened with Vinnie?

Scott: He's outside actually.

Pete: I killed him, I killed him.

Kent: Well he's in Warzone and they just toured Europe and are going to tour the whole U.S. with the Business and he just couldn't be in two bands.

Dean: No the truth is he's straight edge so he can't be in our band anymore.

Max: Talk about some best and worst shows you guys have had?

Dean: Tonight was pretty good I'd say it was one of the best, one of the worst was at the Pipeline last week.

Kent: The Pipeline sucked.

Max: What happened?

Dean: The sound was all fucked up and we were just fighting among ourselves, it was just a really bad show.

Kent: We sounded like shit.

Dean: It just wasn't happening at all.

Andy: What about the Bond st. Days?

Dean: Well I wouldn't trade the bond st. days for anything in the world, but I gotta say that we've played Bond st. a couple of times and there were like three people there so I gotta say I'm a lot more in tune to what's going on now, where a lot of kids actually show up.

Max: What was High school like?

Dean: I have no fond memories of high school

Scott: I liked High school, I didn't go to classes or anything, but it was fun.

Max: What was your first exposure to Olde E?

Dean: Probably my first year of college. We used to drink it all the time cause we had no money. Back in the day it used to be like a \$1.60 for a 40 oz. In my neighborhood. We also used to practice in this place called the Jamaican music building in Jamaica, Queens and the only thing they used to sell in the neighborhood so we just said 'Fuck it' That was probably our first unified exposure to it.

Max: If you could change one thing about the scene what would it be?

Dean: Just for everyone to stop acting like bitches, to chill out and to shut the fuck up. To have a good time and not to worry about everything else.

Kent: It's not about if you drink beer or don't drink beer, or if you're down or not down. It's all about having fun.

Dean: It's all about music. If you can't be down with that you shouldn't be down at all

Max: Where do you see yourself and the band in ten years?

Kent: Probably dead.

Dean: Us dead, the band dead, the scene dead, yes.



Scott: Forget about ten years, we're talking like six months, guy.

Dean: We're trying desperately to drink ourselves to death.

Max: If there was a hardcore version of the Oscars what do you think you'd be nominated for?

Pete: Best dressed.

Scott: Yeah and we'd win too.

Dean: I think I would win the People magazine 'Sexiest man' award, but that's just my humble opinion, so you know.

Kent: He's a little crazy don't pay any attention to him.

Scott: Just nod, smile and agree with what he says.

Kent: You don't want to set him off.

Max: What's the biggest myth that has been told about you guys?

Kent: I guess the one that we're really transvestites.

Dean: And that we really drink beer which we don't.

Scott: No, we never drink beer.

Dean: Never, we're all straight edge, true till death.

Max: You wanna ask yourself a question and answer it?

Dean: I always constantly question myself on a daily basis, I'm just waiting for a good one to pop up.

Kent: I would like to ask why do people come down to the fucking shows? That's what I don't understand. Not all shows just our shows.

Scott: I don't know.

Dean: To watch us act like complete morons.

Kent: Probably for the beer.

Dean: For the beer.

Max: If you could play with one hand dead or living who would you play with?

Dean: Anal Cunt and we've played with them so I'm one up on the game.

Kent: Old school Metallica.

Pete: Kiss.

Max: Do you guys have any metalhead fantasies?

Dean: Everyday.

Scott: I have like menstrual metal fantasies.

Kent: Everyday of my life is one big metal fantasy.

Max: Outside of the U.S. did people have trouble translating the name No Redeeming Social Value?

Dean: All the time, people are always like what does that mean. I'm like well I thought every language has it.

Max: Closing comments.

Scott: Fuck you all, let's go watch Shutdown. Byeeeeeee!



CLUELESS

I'm so greatly amused by trendy kids, they're so fucking clueless. I'm talking about those people that try to demonstrate every style that's "in" all at once. Most often this is demonstrated by clothes. I once saw a girl and when I looked at her I almost fell on the ground laughing. I know it's wrong to judge people, but here I'm making an exception. I'll describe what she was wearing from head to toe. A No Doubt hat, spiked dog collar, a DKNY baby tee, over it a Tommy Hilfiger bubble jacket with (get this) a Marilyn Manson patch on the sleeve, shiny raver pants with braces and Docs done in fluorescent colors; standing outside the local mall smoking menthol cigarettes. This was quite a sight. As a joke I came up to her and tried to sell her a zine. Surprise, surprise she said she didn't have any money. Me and my friends were laughing about this incident for awhile, but then a couple days later I started thinking that maybe this is what they mean by the Mtv generation. People are brainwashed by all these images that they see on Ty and in Cosmopolitan and other crap like that. The scary part is that people blindly try to consume all these images into their own personality without realizing that you're who you are and you can't just apply these things to yourself. If it's not you, it's not you and you really can't change that as you're yourself and no one else. That's something to be proud of. Then why is it people are so unsatisfied with their own personality or being that they're so desperate to change at every moment. To me it seems like a serious mental illness, which probably leads to depression, severe drug use and things like anorexia and bulimia. Is there an answer or is this problem so deeply rooted in our society, that there is no cure. Who knows?

On the lighter side of things me and my friends were joking around about what will happen if the whole punk thing blew up again and got bigger than ever before. We came up with a short list of changes that will occur if it does happen again and how society will exploit the fuck out of every punk and hardcore stereotype. Read on.

- 1) Tommy Hilfiger bondage pants. (Serve great importance to every hip punk just starting out).
- 2) Kate Moss sportin' a septum ring and an Aus Rotten baby tee on the cover of Vogue.
- 3) Cosmopolitan becomes known as a fanzine and features a section known as NYHC beauty tips. (i.e. what make up to use to make your tatoos stand out while performing on stage)
- 4) Sunday matinees are held at Rosebud sponsored by Z-100 and Revlon.
- 5) Knox gelatin can now be found in only fine salons in the hair care section for \$7.99 a package.
- 6) C.K. B.O. (A new fragrance for that squatter feel everyday, coming soon to department stores everywhere).
- 7) 40's of Olde E are served strictly in only the finest restaurants and liquor stores.
- 8) Jennifer Aniston demonstrates her new hair due: bright blue liberty spikes.
- 9) Munchy's deli is known as a five star restaurant.
- 10) Fat bald congressmen claim to be skinheads to gain greater appeal from the youth audience.

REVIEWS.

The following are some recordings that I've acquired recently. These reviews are my personal opinions and don't really mean anything else but that. No matter what review a band recieved, people should still chesk them out as all of these bands probably worked really hard and deserve a chance. If you'd like your demo, CD, 7inch or anything else to be reviewed, just send it in and it will appear in the next issue. Now read on!!

Farenheit 451-The Thought of It. CD-EP (SFT Records).

It's about time this band got their ass on CD. This 5 song CD has 3 new songs and 2 songs redone of the demo(the demo songs sound a hell of a lot better on this release). The music has a unique hip-hop feel to it, especially evident in the vocals. The music is a good dose of new school hardcore(I hate that term) minus some of the metal. This stew of music gives them the ability to appeal to a vast musical spectrum. Another bonus is that the lyrics are very intelligent and the packaging is dope. These guys are awesome have built themselves quite a following. Those who know them, already have this and know how good it is. As for the rest of you, SFT gives you a perfect chance to find out . Don't miss out.

One 4 One- In Search Of. CD. (Back Ta Basics).

One 4 One comes at you with a raw style of hardcore, with screaming vocals. The vocals might throw some people of at first, even though they're done really well. Most of the songs start out kind of slow with an intro type thing and then become ultra fast and furious, with many breakdowns and changes. On this CD they rip through 10 songs and a cover of AF's "Discriminate me". I heard these guys are really big in Jersey and this CD shows why. I just wish they would play the city more.

Higher Truth- What Sets Us Apart. Cass single. (272 Olympia blvd: staten island,ny 10305) I'm really the wrong person to review this as I know almost nothing about metal. Yes, this is a metal two song tape. The quality of the recording is really good. As for the music it has screamed vocals that are at times spoken. I suppose this is pretty good compared to other dtuff I've heard. There's a minimal hardcore influence in here, but overall it's pretty much metal. If you're into it, give them a chance.

Tripface - Some Part Sorrow. CD. (EXIT Records).

Hell yeah, this rules. This CD blows their 7 inch(which was good in itself) out of the water. Tight musicianship, great catchy riffs and highly charging music. Great personal lyrics that that I could really relate to. They talk prevailing,unity, broken friendships and lost love (I guess that's where the sorrow part comes in). Energy driven music with a slight metallic edge with tons of tempo changes. There are some slow parts which may seem out of place but, fit in perfectly and usually lead to a lot of interesting breakdowns and some fast old school parts, for all you traditionalists out there. This band's sound is really unique and has to be heard by everyone. They even do a killer cover of Twisted Sister's "I Want to Rock". From the moment I got this I've been listening to it non stop, while the CD rules these guys are also unbelievable live. For those of you who suffer from amnesia let me leave off with: Buy this killer album.

Shutdown - Turning the Tide- CD-EP. (SFT Records).

Brooklyn's own Youth crew comes at you with this 7 song CD. These guys play a pretty traditional style of hardcore with some great "new school" breakdowns. What you get is a good mixture of the old and of the new. It's fast, catchy has enough energy to power the whole city, let alone Brooklyn. Positive music and great packaging. What more could your hardcore infested mind want.

L.E.S. Stitches- Snapped - CD. (Eyeball Records).

The Stitches have exploded into one of my favorite local punk bands. After 2 7 inches they finally put this full length out. The music is in your face punk rock with hints of a Clash or Stiff Little Finger influences. Mick is a great singer who bolts out emotion and attitude. The music is extremely catchy, without resorting to sounding wimpy. Songs range from the slower "Automatic Pilot" to the explosive "I'm Not Working For You" and "Snapped". Every song on this CD rules and will get stuck in your head for days. Punk Rock the way it should be and worth every penny.

Zinc- Demo Tape. (25 Ferncliff rd.; Scarsdale, NY 10583)

I really had a tough time with this one for two main reasons: 1) The sound quality is really pretty bad which makes it really hard to listen to and 2) I'm not at all into the style of music that they play. These guys kind of sound like a cross between Jawbreaker and Nirvana. Anyway these guys are really young and can only get better. Contact them for more info.

Fastbreak- Where it Lies- tape (11 Roberts Dr.; Bethel, Ct. 06801)

Fastbreak along with a group of many other bands are playing hardcore the way it used to sound: fast and positive. Although this tape is pretty old and they have a 7 inch out now it's still really good. There's a definite Gorilla Biscuits influence here. With the traditional sounds that this band puts out, you can't miss.

Sick of it All- Built to Last- CD (EastWest.)

Holy shit!!! New Sick of it All, how long have I yearned for thee. I feel kinda stupid reviewing this because all of you will probably already own this. Anyway Sick of it All is my favorite band and I think this is their best record to date. That's really saying a lot because everything else they've put out has been amazing. It's a lot more punk than Scratch the Surface. It also shows the band's progression over the years. This can stand as a greatest hits record cause it represents all the styles that the band has portrayed over the years. Songs like "Closer" and "Jungle" show the band advancing from where songs like "Consume" and "Maladjusted" left off. "Us vs. Them" has an oi influence similar to "Step Down". The rest of the songs are just as varied. Everything that got me into hardcore and punk in the first place is demonstrated on this release. This band has been putting great records out for years and this is no exception. In my book Sick of it All can do no wrong. Great job, guys.

Irate- demo 96 (Contact Phil 718-584-5419)

This is pretty much your generic tough-guy metal/hardcore band with really rough vocals. The lyrics deal with the typical stuff that everyone's heard before. I'm really not at all into this genre except for a few bands. This band isn't bad they're just nothing special or too original and the muddy production doesn't help them much out either. The cover art is pretty cool though.

The Truents/The Krays- Oi, What Happened to Punk!-double 7 inchEP (Intensive Scare Records- PO Box 142, NY, NY 10002-0142).

This is great. Two of NY's best Oi/punk bands putting a double 7 inch out together. Anyway the Truents songs are great pogo-punk with great melodic vocals and lots of energy. The Krays are also

awesome and play punk rock with a few tinges of good ol' fashioned street rock'n'roll, providing a Clash feel. Here they contribute "Sold out Traitor" and "Sobriety". I was kind of upset that the Krays songs were already on their "Guns of Brooklyn" demo, but the sound quality on the record is better so it's all good. The bands team up for a Sham 69 cover. Both these bands rule and shouldn't be missed. Also both are really good live. With great packaging and great tunes I don't see a way to go wrong. Do you?

Burndown- Demo (3318 3rd Av. Bronx, NY 10456; #718-842-8152).

I wish more demos were like this one. To start off a decent recording and good layouts with lyrics and all the goods. The music doesn't disappoint either. Clear powerful vocals along with some great hardcore which at times reminds me of old Leeway. Five songs on this one and they're all good, my favorite being "Feel". With more shows I feel these guys can build themselves a big following. Anyway, a very impressive start.

The Banned- 7inch. (Fourth Dementia Records)

First off this 7in. has ten songs on it, which is pretty fuckin' cool and second: all the songs are awesome. If you don't know The Banned, they're a young punk band from Westchester. They play straight up punk without the cheesy melodies and surfer pop choruses. Soundwise they're at times similar to The Pist with the songs having different tempos from song to song. Lyrics are straight to the point and your general "Fuck you" type stuff. My favorite songs are "Alcoholic" and "Officer Felony". There's a pretty funny story behind the song "Oui Punks", but I won't spoil it for you. Awesome cover art rounds out the whole package. I could go on, but if you haven't figured it out yet I'll tell you: BUY NOW.

Straight Faced- Broken- CD (Fearless Records.)

When I first got this CD I thought it was going to be another Cali punk band. Was I wrong, lookin' back on it I feel like a total idiot. This band kicks ass. Take Ignite add some Shutdown and a couple of shots of Good Riddance and you have Straight Faced. Where have these guys been and how come they're not huge. Old style hardcore with a slight punk influence. I'm really into this CD and wish these guys would visit The Apple some time soon. Excellent stuff.

Drowning Room-"Divinity Syndrome" 7in. (Trip Machine- PO Box 36, New city, NY 10956)

This is some heavy stuff. Dark metal. Slow and grinding with a little hardcore thrown in. Although I'm not into this style I have to admit that good musicianship and very interesting intelligent lyrics make this band stand out. Also Sean mixes up screaming and mellow singing really well. The title track is the best song on this one.

H20- "Can't Get Off The Phone" 7in. (Orphaned Records- 349 south union av. Cranford, NJ 07016)

Here's the new 7 inch from H20. At this day and age this band needs no introduction. What we have here is "Phone Song" a new song which is a really good song, an instrumental entitled "Smokey's Last Supper" and two covers "Salad Days" and "Bad Boys" with new hysterical lyrics. This is another 7in. that everyone will really enjoy. Also Orphaned Records is a really good label that's just starting out and need all the support they can get. Add this to your collection today.

Deceptacons/Leapfrog- split 7in. (Deceptacons-1780 A North Dove rd. Yardley, Pa 19067: Leapfrog-1267 N.E. Blvd. #9A; Vineland, NJ 08360).

This is a split 7 inch with six songs that someone handed to me outside of CIH one night. The Deceptacons play fast and furious punk rock slightly similar to The Casualties. They have two songs

and a cover of "Straight Edge". Then I put on the Leapfrog side and I'm really confused. The first song starts out as a Shelter type song with a little bit of hip-hop in the vocals, then it turns into a fast old school song. The second song is also a very traditional hardcore song. The third song is a really fast punk rock song. Don't get me wrong all the 3 songs were really good, but it sounded more like a compilation. Anyway both these bands are awesome and everyone should enjoy this record.

Casualties- "For The Punx" Limited ed. LP. (Tribal War Records.)

Finally a full length from the mighty Casualties. I was really excited to hear this and was slightly disappointed at first. Not all the songs are new and the songs of "A fuckin' way of life" are recorded much faster and sound worse. That can also be said for some of the new songs that are a lot faster than the usual Casualties stuff. This was my first impression. Now after a few listens this is really growing on me. This is a good record, from a great punk band.

Common Ground- 7inch-(ignition records-po box220: Vergennes,Vt. 05491).

I saw this band at the UpFront reunion show and although their singer had lost his voice prior to the show. The band played anyway and were pretty good, but nothing prepared me for this 7 inch. It's fucking amazing. Fast and catchy old school hardcore/punk with good lyrics and awesome singalongs. Inside there is also an interesting scene report along with lyrics and pictures. I sense a slight Chain of Strength influence on this one. This instantly became one of my favorite 7 inches. I can't say enough good things about this band. Make sure you check them out, I'm sure as hell glad I did.

V/A "Satisfaction Guaranteed" comp. CD (Nawpost Records)

While I'm not really a big fan of comps I have to admit that this is a damn good one. Why? You ask. Well to start off 17 bands(almost all of them rock) who do 27 live songs which actually sound great (considering they're live). This compilation features: 25 Ta Life, NRSV, Awkward Thought, Yuppicide, 6& Violence, Maximum Penalty, The Pist, Sheer Terror, Killing Time and many more. If what I've written so far hasn't convinced you, I guess nothing will. It's your loss. Just remember kiddies lotsa great bands+lotsa great songs=? Duh, a fucking solid compilation.

Neck-Demo tape (Mike D. 516-676-2191).

Neck is the newest addition to the SFT family. They will soon be putting out a CD, but this is their demo. They also have a 7 inch out. Anyway when I saw these guys at Mulaly I wasn't into them because the sound was all fucked up as well as other things. Ever since then I have heard their name pop up everywhere. This is really bizarre stuff. I would call them soothingly brutal, as the vocals are half sung and half screamed. I won't even touch upon the lyrics since none came with the demo, but with titles like "Answer Me", "Finger", "Snowball" and "Howl" you can be sure they're not your ordinary stuff. Musically I think this lies somewhere between V.O.D. and Mr. Bungle. (Closer to V.O.D. though). Let me leave off with saying that Neck is excellent and you'll be hearing about them a lot in the future.

The Unruly- "Call to Arms"- demo tape (94 Radford st. Apt 3, Yonkers, NY 10705).

One of the few Westchester Oi bands the Unruly definitely stand out above the rest, because they're great. 6 catchy and hardhitting Oi songs which are marked by good musicianship, tight playing and a solid recording. My favorite tracks have to be "Call To Arms", "Wars Entity" and "In Your Face". The band takes straight up Oi and adds some various influences to it to mix it up a little. The final product is one of the best Oi bands I've heard in a long time. If you'd like a copy of this demo send \$3 to Dave Niles at the address above. It won't disappoint.

Cause For Alarm- "The Cheaters and the Cheated"- CD (Victory Records).

NYHC veterans are back with a bang. After many line-up changes they're finally back and better than ever. CFA is like wine as they keep on getting better with age. On this release they show that they still haven't lost their edge as they still play the same 90 m/ph style of hardcore that we have grown to love, but here there is a definite trace of maturity behind the songs (there are one or two slower numbers on here that rock as well). Keith's vocals still have that distinct clearness to them and the lyrics are spiritual and deal with a lot of Krishna ideology. I really hope that the line-up that CFA have now is a solid one so they can play out more cause they're truly one of the great NYHC outfits.

The Maladjusted- Demo (Ken Levine: 25 Guion st., Pleasantville NY 10570)

Another young band out of Westchester. Hopefully this will rebuild the scene and make it strong. Back to the tape, what we get here is a serving of good ol' fashion punk rock with a little bit of hardore. Musically at times similar to Token Entry (and they even cover "Jaybird" live). The demo is only \$1 or \$2 by mail so if you want something fun, sloppy and with a real cool layout check them out.

The Skeptonics- Demo (No address).

There are too many kids who hang out at malls, start bands and play generic pop-punk with nothing to hook me in. With this demo the Skeptonics run into a few problems, 1) Lousy recording. 2) No packaging whatsoever, which doesn't let the listener know what they're hearing. 3) Monotonous vocals almost throughout the whole tape, which put me to sleep. Other than that this is six songs of pop-punk. Questions arise in my mind when I heard the chorus to the first song and it was "Oi, Oi, Oi." A cover of the trendy anthem "Knowledge" by Op Ivy follows later. Even though the stuff I said above has not been the most encouraging, this demo does show a lot of potential and with time and a better recording I'm sure they'll get a lot better.

My Very First comp. 7 in. (Uncouth Records: R.G. Walter P.O. Box 645, NY, NY. 10001).

This one is put together by Gabe W9Y/Intense City. Lack of packaging makes it a little unclear who you're listening to. Eleven-11 is a really soft melodic band, I guess this is what you would call emo. They really remind of Oasis minus the British accents. On the other side we have Emanon who are a good hardcore band with powerful vocals. The song has some speed and diversity and is rather enjoyable. The third band is Pitfall, I think Gabe himself plays in it. I really don't get what they're suppose to be, or even if it's just one big joke, so I'm not gonna try reviewing it. My mind is still not completely made up about this comp. It does come with a rad Whole 9 Yards pen, though. Thumbs up.

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ines.

I'm a big fan of zines, since most of them usually have something interesting to say and it's also a good source of finding out people's views on things as well as discovering new bands and reading what your old favorites have to say. Zines are also often good for a laugh or two. I encourage you all to support fanzines by buying them since they're usually pretty cheap or by contributing to them in anyway possible. The following are some zines that I've gotten lately and once again reviews are only personal opinions.

Sealed For Safety #2 (Phil/Gregg Lobato, 21 Anderson ave., Sleepy Hollow, NY. 10591).

An awesome sXe zine out of Westchester(yeah-ed.), this one has interviews with Automatic 7, xEndurex, xEnvyx and excellent interviews with The Unruly and Step 2 Far. There is also a very interesting article on sXe, graff pics, reviews and some other essays. It's \$1.50 by mail or \$1 in person. The pictures came out a lot better in this than in the debut. Plus some cool cover art to go along with this excellent zine.

Useless #2 (200 E. 16th st., Suite 12G, NY, NY 10003)

A very professional, 70 page zine which I think is done by Vinny from Eyeball records. I think the best comparison I can come up with is a thicker SoundViews with a punk and hardcore focus. This one has interviews with L.E.S. Stitches, The Nobodys, Kingsize bookings, The Goons, Stillsuit, and Killing Time. Also included is a LI scene report, a punk photo essay and all the other good zine stuff. Plus its free in NYC and DC and \$2 everywhere else. Pick it up if you get a chance to.

Ragin Youth #2 (Michael Musilli: 240 Willowood Drive, Wantagh NY 11793)

A pretty good fanzine with Warzone, H2O, Born, Overthrow interviews (which are pretty short) and a newsletter from Tension. It's kinda slim making it a pretty quick read and also it doesn't do anything extra to make it stand out, what I mean by that is that it has the usual zine stuff: interviews, record and show reviews. And nothing else to add to make it special. It can only improve though, so keep an eye out for it.

State of Mind #2 (Jackson: 1240, 81st. St., Brooklyn, NY 11228)

I gotta say State of Mind is one hell of a fanzine. It's really thick and has everything you could ever want out of a zine: interviews (Sick of it All, Ignite, Bloodlet, Kevone (Terrorzone), Snapcase, Inhuman, Warzone, Step Aside, Denied, Muddlehead). Reviews of records, shows and zines. Cool poetry. Japanese scene report. Interesting facts. Essays on different topics + Papio's pick the best date contest which is hysterical. The only fault I could find was that some of the muddy printing made a few of the interviews hard to read. But they've given you more than enough to make up for it. So don't waste anytime and get this now. \$2 in the U.S., \$3 outside.

Intense City CD rom/zine #1 (Gabe Walter. P.O. Box 668. NY, NY. 10116.)

This is a split zine. Half of it is State of Mind and the other is a CD rom zine brought to you by Gabe W9Y. The State of Mind part (see review, but this is a little bit smaller with different bands and some cool essays. Unfortunately the CD rom part is for MACs only, so I only got a couple of brief looks at it at my friend's house. I know it has interviews with Cause for Alarm, Murphy's Law, In Effect zine, Rejuvenate, Cleanser and more. It looked really cool. Plus its also an audio CD with tracks by Advertencia, Planet Freek, Compression, Hoods, Step Aside. This whole package is only \$6, so don't miss out. P.S. The next one will be for both IBM and MAC.



In Effect #10 (Chris Wynne. 119-16 8th avenue. College Point, NY 11356.)

No need to review this. Chris has a reputation for putting a great zine out and this one does not disappoint. Interviews with No Redeeming Social Value, Breakdown, Agnostic Front, Tripface, Inhuman, Downlow. Lots of other good stuff here as well + an interview with Barney the purple dinosaur which had me rolling on the floor. Awesome layouts as usual. Without a doubt one of the best zines out. It would be cool to see this zine expanding into punk a little bit more. If you wanna know what's up in hardcore, get this.

Psycho Moto #? (Ethan Minsker. 45 Avenue B. #2. NY, NY. 10009).

Out of all the zines that I've come across this has got to be my favorite. It has so much personality, by the time you've finished it you'd think you've known the author for years. This one is a double issue with 70 pages.

There are interviews with Sick of it All, Swingin' Utters, H2O and an old Rancid interview (which was done 3 years ago, before they were really big,

so it's pretty funny). Besides the interviews and reviews this zine is crammed with lots of interesting writing, rants and poetry. Some pieces are hysterical while others are serious and will make you think. This awesome zine is \$4 ppd. and well worth every penny. Great stuff.

Sudafed-I Dare You #2 (11 Jones Place, White Plains, NY. 10606.)

This is a free zine from Westchester. Not much music wise, but it's still pretty cool. This zine is 14 pgs. of random funny articles. Some articles are slightly humorous while others are downright hysterical. The only one I thought was cheesy was the wedgie-ramma. A fun read + it's free (for all ya cheap bastards out there) so you have nothing to lose, but maybe two stamps.

Bam Bam #2 (Tim: 147-32 45 Ave. Flushing NY, 11355).

This is a half size 26 pg. zine. It has very short interviews with the Eclectics, 22 Jacks, Unwritten Law, Suicide Machines and the Drowners. There's also some rants and raves + a horoscope. A decent read, but really needs some bulking up as I was done with it, before I knew it.

Newspeak #1 (PO Box 254- Rye, NY- 10580.)

Another zine outta Westchester. This one's alright, it's 16 pages of random writing and some reviews. Some of the writing was funny or interesting but some was boring. There's also a tribute to the Weekly world news here. I think this will get a lot better with time and an increase in page number. The fact that it's free, makes it worth your while.

Fresh Meat #5 (Chrissy Morris, 135 Fifth ave. Apt. 8f, Pelham, NY. 10803).

Is putting out short free zines with random writing the new trend in Westchester? Anyway very similar to Newspeak and Sudafed - I dare you. This one is 17 pages of personal and random writing. I think a lot of people will read the somewhat personal stuff and just go "who gives a fuck?" There are also some reviews here, but what's the deal with reviewing only Howitzer. This zine is amusing the first time through. But once again it's free, so you have nothing to lose.

Negative Ink #4 (PO Box 20302, Staten Island, NY 10302).

Shit, this is one of the most professional and nicest layouts I've seen in a zine. This one is 80 pgs. and has interviews with Gameface, Voodoo Glow Skulls, Muddfoot, Milhouse, Dance Hall Crashers, and Texas is the Reason. There is also a shitload of comic strips here and I actually enjoyed some of them, which is strange cause I'm not the biggest comic fan. I loved the Smurfs column. I think this zine is \$2 and truly has something for everyone, so don't miss out.

Jackpot #2 (P.O. Box 155 Cooper Stn. NY,NY 10276-0155)

This one was really cool. It features interviews with Snuka, Indecision, The Factory Press and an SFA tour diary. All the interviews have a sexual twist in terms of questions which makes for a great read. There's also lots of cool writing and rants. Looks like a good representation of what's going on in L.E.S. Miss Hell definitely takes a step away from your usual zine stuff, you'll see what I mean when you get it. This one's the houseboy issue. Do yourself a favor and get this.

Free Spirit#1 (Steve Larger PO Box 100 Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034).

A pretty cool hardcore zine. Good detailed interviews with Shelter and Strength 691. Other than that there is a Jersey scene report, show and record reviews, + as well as a section where the author interprets lyrics by bands like Mouthpiece, 108 and Snapcase. I'm not sure how much this is, but it's worth getting your hands on. An impressive debut.



SHOWS.

In the past few months I've been to many shows, but being the great procrastinator that I am, I never reviewed the shows soon after the show. I waited for the last minute to do it. I'm just warning you in case I forgot something. Also I forgot about some of the shows I went to like the Guillotine benefit, Yuppicide and Madball at Wetlands with V.O.D., Warzone and Shutdown, so I didn't review them as well as a few others. Also all of the following reviews are in no particular order, so don't get confused. Now read on.

Descendents, Bouncing Souls, Swingin' Utters at the Wetlands. Dec. 8

I was really fucking excited for this show. The godfathers of pop-punk the Descendents along with two of my favorite current punk bands. This show also sold out in like two days, but guest list saved the day, as usual.

The Swingin' Utters from San Francisco went on at about 6:30 and played a pretty good set filled with stuff mostly off their first LP as well as a few new ones. The crowd wasn't getting into them that much (except for a handful of people, me included) which is a shame cause they're a great band. This set wasn't as good as the last time I saw them at the Continental, but it was still pretty good. I hope they return to NYC soon.

Next, local heroes the Bouncing Souls came on and got a huge crowd response. As usual they opened up with "I Like Your Mom" and went on to play all their songs which are already classics. The whole crowd was singing along and having a good time. At one point Greg jumped off the stage ran to the bar and got himself a drink and ran back to the stage. I'm not gonna talk more about the Souls cause everyone knows who they are and what they're about and that's fun, goofy punk that everyone and their mom can enjoy.

Finally this brings us to the mighty Descendents who played a tremendous set which lasted an hour and forty minutes. Playing almost every song from "I Don't Want to Grow Up" and "Milo Goes to College" plus some new tunes this was everything you would ever want from the Descendents. If that wasn't enough they did about two encores and kept everyone happy. I gotta say it was ultra cool to see four men in their thirties singing about not wanting to grow up and about being perverts. Karl told me before the show that they're "every punk's girlfriends' favorite band" and he was right as there were a lot of girls there which was nice to see.

To wrap this up I gotta say this was a fun show and it was great to see the Descendents back. My only grudge being that my favorite band Sick of it All was playing the same day at CB's, but since I saw them the two consecutive days before, I came here.

Agnostic Front, H2O, Maximum Penalty, Hatebreed, Fury of V at the Wetlands. Dec. 14.

Finally the day has arrived, the AF reunion. Starting this off were Fury of V who played good set of their deathmetal take on hardcore. Even though I'm not a big fan of this genre, I gotta say Fury of V are much better at it than most of the many bands who attempt it, since they're extremely tight and have enough diversity to keep it interesting. Kids were dancing for them, but I think many were saving their energy for the main event. I think Hatebreed played next and all I can say is I'm not at all into them. They play generic metal tough guy hardcore

and I haven't found anything that separates them from the rest. I must be missing something though cause these guys have a huge following, so I don't know. Next on were Maximum Penalty who played their hearts out tonight. For some unknown reason many people consider them to be a metal band which is ridiculous. They're hardcore with lots of soul and groove. Playing a set with old and new songs plus one or maybe even two Bad Brains covers, I don't really remember. What I do remember is that they rocked. Nuff said.

H2O are a band who I've seen so many times that I've lost count, but it's gotta be close to thirty times by now. The strange thing is that I never get tired of them, which really says a lot. Once again they played a good set with lots of energy that everyone responded really well to. It was so damn hot and the crowd still went nuts. They played the "Bad Boys" cover off their new 7 inch. Macky was playing drums since Todd Friend broke his hand, but still managed to play Marginal Man's "Friend" one handed.

Now it was time for the main event. Ladies and gentlemen: Agnostic Front! From the first note of "Victim In Pain" the crowd erupted. I don't think I've ever seen a show as nuts as this one. Leaping bodies everywhere. Roger and Co. proceeded to bust out an incredible set with all the classics finishing things off with "Crucified". I can only say one thing: AF rules. The best thing is, I get to do it all over again tomorrow. Can't wait.

Agnostic Front, H2O, Killing Time, 25 Ta Life, Stillsuit at Wetlands. Dec 15.

While walking to this show I was wondering if AF could live up to yesterday's performance. I got to the show and unfortunately missed Stillsuit, who are a unique band and are finally getting the respect they deserve by being signed and releasing an LP on TWT records. Anyway I'm sorry I missed them, but there's always next time.

Next 25 Ta Life took the stage. It was strange to see them opening up a show. I've seen this band many many times and I gotta say this was definitely one of their better sets. I think they played a new song which seemed to have less metal and more speed than usual. The kids were singing along and doing all the usual things.

Old timers Killing Time were next and kicked ass playing all their classics as well as some new songs that were solid as well. Their new LP promises to be a goodie. Also the crowd was going nuts and giving Killing Time the respect that they have earned after all these years.

H2O were back again and what do you know, another good set. Their set was very similar to the one last night except for a few surprises including Big Ray jumping on stage and ... (well just ask someone to tell you about it). The biggest surprise came at the end of their set when none other than John Joseph came out and sang "Hard Times" with Toby. Needless to say everyone went nuts and I only caught a few glimpses of him as he was mobbed by the crowd.

Once again: Agnostic Front. They played a set similar to last night, but amazingly played much better, something I thought couldn't be accomplished. Rick from 25 came out and sang "Last Warning" with them. "Crucified" conclude this incredible set. This was without a doubt one of the best shows I've been to in a long while and it's definitely great to see AF back, I hope it's for good.

Blanks 77, L.E.S. Stitches, The Suspects at Coney Island High. (Jan. 20???)

A good punk show at CIH, it's been awhile. Dehumanized were supposed to play first, but got their towards the end of Suspects' set and were not allowed to play, which sucks because they're a great band. As a result the Suspects from D.C. played first. They were a really rough punk with raspy vocals. They were OK, but really nothing spectacular, they did have some catchy choruses though and were received decently by the crowd.

The L.E.S. Stitches truly one of New York's finest punk bands were next and got a huge response from the crowd. Mick is an awesome frontman jumping around and making weird faces all while still displaying tons of emotion and attitude. Another notable thing was Curt's lead

guitar work, whose many riffs and leads provided another dimension to the band's sound, adding melody without sounding wimpy. Jimmy Gestapo joined in on the fun towards the end of the set and sang a Dead Boyd cover with the Stitches. Anyway a great band. Check them out.

Next on were the kings of drunk pogo-punk: Blanks '77. I've seen their set many enjoyable times before, but now as much as I hate to say it I'm sick of them. Why? Cause they're so damn repetitive. All songs sound exactly the same and have the same beat. That's not always a bad thing, but if it's a band you see very often it gets really annoying, especially if you're sober. Speaking of which the Blanks are, like most of their fans, always drunk of their asses at shows, which makes them sloppy as hell. All that aside they're still a fun band, but maybe I should take a little break from them.

This was a pretty good show the highlight being the Stitches. With plenty of beer flowing around it was hard not to enjoy this fest.

Asstroland, Kill Your Idols, Awkward Thought, Maladjusted at ABC NO RIO. Feb. 22.

This was the first Awkward Thought show in awhile, since they've been having trouble with their drummer. It was good to see them back since they're a fine raw hardcore/punk band. Cipher from LI were supposed to play first, but when they got there and saw it wasn't a nice clean place they said one of them had "asthma" (doesn't that sound like a perfect excuse) and left right away. That was kind of fucked up because a band should be glad to be playing shows at all and not be picky. There are many great bands that don't get to play even ABC NO RIO. Second ABC NO RIO is a really cool place, that's not expensive cause it's volunteer run and it's a total punk club. Sure it's not Roseland or Irving Plaza, but do we really want it to be. Gimme a break.

Anyway this was Maladjusted's first show ever and I must say I was impressed. They play fast punk rock with clean vocals and a slight hardcore influence. Also they're from Weschesta!!!!, so you gotta represent. Don't I sound all tough. They covered "Jaybird" by Token Entry (a band they sound very similar to) and one of their songs had a Side by Side outro. They were a little sloppy, but were overall good. Definitely check their demo out.

Next on were Awkward Thought. They played a good set with songs from their demo + the 4 Skins cover of "Evil" which everyone loved. Most of the people there were really into Awkward Thought. Hopefully they will be playing more shows soon and I hear a split 7 inch with Comin' Correct is in the works.

Kill Your Idols from Long Island were next and were OK. They played fast punk rock, and their set featured a Nesative Approach and an SOA cover, which were both done really well. I've seen KYI a few times now and they're slowly growing on me.

I missed Asstroland, but heard they were awesome. They never dissapointed me before so this set was probably no different.

Madball, V.O.D., Lordz of Brooklyn, Stillsuit, Tripface at Irving Plaza. Feb 20

I was surprised this show was at Irving Plaza, since only two or three months earlier I saw a very similar show at Wetlands and I don't think that one even sold out. So I'm thinking that there aren't going to be many people here on a Thursday night. I was totally wrong. This show fucking sold out. I couldn't believe it.

Tripface are definitely my favorite band out of new bands. They played first, but didn't have their bass player Dave with them. Some guy whose name I think was Christian filled in and did just fine. Tripface were great. I was surprised that they didn't play "Brotherhood" but it turns out that their fill-in bass player hated that song. Also there were hundreds of people there to see Tripface. It was also weird to see them play a show without 600 kids clobbering Scott. But I guess that's what the barricade is for. Dave, their real bassist came for the last song, which was a Judge cover. Another great set for them even if this was a little bit weird.

Stillsuit were on next and played a good set filled with stuff mostly of their new CD on

TVT records. The new songs seemed a little bit more mellow than their earlier stuff on the "Green Spock Ears" EP. Surprisingly Julian's usual activities of rolling around on the floor, breaking numerous mikes, bashing his head and mic on the floor; all that was a little restrained tonight. Music more than made up for it.

I was downstairs during most of Lordz of Brooklyn's set for the sole reason that I think they suck. I've given them a chance all the previous times I stumbled upon their set and never could be even remotely interested.

V.O.D. were next and Irving Plaza erupted. It seems everyone was there for them. The barrier was once again limiting the usual crowd participation that takes place during their sets, their intense tight playing still overwhelmed most of the people there. Tim seemed a lot more sober than usual, as he spoke a lot more than usual. He introduced "Viola" (a song they almost never play) by saying that if a band progresses it doesn't mean they sell out. Good point, I feel people throw the term "sell-out" too lightly and should take more responsibility for their words, as it is a pretty serious accusation, if you think about it. This was probably one of the best V.O.D. sets I've seen and everyone went nuts.

The same could be said for Madball as they rocked. The fucked up thing was that after V.O.D a couple of hundred kids left, which might have something to do with the fact that about 85% of the kids were LI kids who came to see V.O.D. and Tripface. There was still a shitload of people there for Madball, don't get me wrong. They played a set of old and new and only limited themselves to only one AF cover saying that AF are back. Madball was great, as usual.

Even though Irving Plaza sucks and takes bands' money from merch, this was still an awesome show. Waking up early the next morning is what truly sucked though.

Richie Muddlehead



Shutdown, No Redeeming Social Value, Muddlehead at Castle Heights. Feb 1.

This was the record release party for Shutdown's CD on SFT records. The 7 train wasn't working so I took a different train and of course got off at the wrong stop, as a result had to walk thirty blocks. I was kind of tired when I got there, but I guess the free pizza and a great line-up were compensations for my walk.

Inhuman was suppose to play, but they cancelled and Muddlehead played instead. If you don't know Muddlehead, they hail from Brooklyn and play intense and rough hardcore with lots of speed. Whenever Richie sings, his face turns red.

They played a really good set, including a cover of Sick of it All's "Friends Like You" which is a personal favorite. Mike from Inhuman came out and sang a song with them, but I missed most of it.

At a little past 11 it was time for the one and the only, No Redeeming Social Value. They were all wearing suits since "they wanted to look nice for Shutdown's big day". They ruled and I was glad to catch' em before they leave on their European tour. They played all their classics including a cover of Shutdown's "Decide". There was a big guido bouncer on stage who wasn't letting kids have fun and dive(they did both anyway) and Mike was always making funny faces behind him. They introduced "Skinheads Rule" as a song about getting into a fight with a lawnmower and it winning and cutting all your hair off. They also played two new songs "Judge Not" and the musically and lyrically astonishing "Big Ass, Small Tits". Anyway everyone loves these guys for one simple reason, besides having great music, they're not obsessed with being sXe or tough or vegan, they're just drunk and that's all there is to it.

Finally this bring us to Brooklyn's own youth crew representatives Shutdown. They played really well with tons of energy. They played some stuff of their new CD and the songs sounded great. Anthony played with a separated shoulder, but that didn't seem to effect his performance one bit. The cover of YOT's "Youth Crew" was one of the many highlights of their set. Great stage prescence and it's nice enjoying themselves on stage as much as the Shutdown guys. This was a great show where all three bands rocked.
P.S, The Shutdown CD kicks ass.

Casualties, The Unseen, The Krays, Banner of Hope, Disorderly Conduct at Coney Island High. Feb 8.

This was the record release party for the Casualties. I think the record wasn't ready on time, so they were selling these test pressing limited edition of 200, LP's for \$3. This place was packed and after about only half an hour the show sold out. The Casualties have really built themselves a following over the years and they deserve it cause they've been working hard. Also I love Banner of Hope and the Krays, and everything I've heard from the Unseen has been awesome. This promised to be a great show.

Disorderly Conduct from L.I. kicked this show of and I've heard many good things about them, but frankly I thought they were nothing special. They sounded like shitty Casualties and Exploited. They did a mediocre cover of "Sex and Violence". A lot of kids liked them though, so I don't know.

The Krays



Banner of Hope took the stage next. The first thing I noticed was Lucky's shirt which said "I Shot Tupac" which had me chuckling for awhile. The band themselves are awesome punkrock with screamed shrill female vocals. My only complaint with their set was that the sound was kind of fucked up, which at times distracted from an overall great set.

After Banner of Hope, the Krays took the stage. I'm a huge fan of this band. They have been plagued by bad recording on their first two demos which nonetheless rule, sound isn't everything. They have recently broke through by putting out a split EP with the Truents(also a great band). The Krays play an infectious style of punk rock with a dash of good ol' fashion rock 'n' roll. This has drawn many comparisons to the Clash. They played an awesome set with all my favorites like "Sold out Traitor", "Too Lazy", "Tax the Rich", and

"Sobriety". To my surprise they didn't play their version of Clash's of "Career Opportunities". They sent one song out to Disorderly Conduct, who talked shit about them, saying that you shouldn't say shit cause the truth will always rise to the top.

Something weird happened afterwards. Supposedly there was a bomb threat and everyone was evacuated outside without being able to get their coats. Everyone's luck it was snowing out. The site was 500 or so sweaty punks freezing outside for about half an hour. The number of pneumonia case must have been high the next day. About half an hour later people were allowed back in. Some people left but the majority remained to enjoy the rest of the show.

Boston's the Unseen were next and kicked ass, surpassing all my expectations. I really can't say enough good things about them. Towards the end of their set Lucky from Banner of Hope sang a song with them. It was a cover of Poison's "Every Rose Has Its Thorn".

Finishing the night off were the Casualties, who played a pretty good set. Everyone was clobberin' the stage. The soundman made a couple of cracks saying that this isn't an Agnostic Front show and everyone should get off the stage. Their set was concluded with a cover of Sham 69's anthem "If the Kids are United" which sent everyone home smiling. Hopefully punk shows like these will become a more frequent event.

Home 33, V.O.D. at 7 Willow st, Portchester. Jan 5.

It's good to see 7 Willow street having more punk and hardcore shows as it will hopefully restore the Westchester scene. So, keep it up, Eugene and the 7 willow street crew. Anyway I missed almost all of the three bands that played before Home 33. I think their names were Torn Between, Unspoken Truth and Drowning Room (whom I saw 5 minutes of and they were pretty good).



I gotta say I haven't seen a V.O.D. show this empty in a long time. There were only a hundred or so kids there. I was psyched to see Home 33, a great underrated band. They played really well starting things off with "Paintover". At one point of the show Ryan dived off a huge speaker on the side of the stage. They played a new song "11/13" which is going to be on a soundtrack to a movie called "Sam". They were really tight and got a great crowd response with kids dancing a lot more than the last time I saw them here.

V.O.D. were next and this was a pretty mediocre set for their standards, maybe it was the lack of crowd participation or something else. They were still pretty good, but having seen V.O.D. many times before I've come to expect more. Maybe, I'm just spoiled when it comes to these things.

Downset, Fahrenheit 451, Home 33, Boiler Room, Tree at CBGB. Jan 26.

I missed Tree and caught the last four songs from Boiler Room and those songs were pretty much sucked, being generic uninteresting metal. I was impressed by the number of people that were there. I didn't realize how big Downset were.

Home 33 went on third and I gotta say out many times I've seen them this was probably the best. Everything seemed right for them this afternoon. Most of the crowd was dancing for almost every song they played. A new song entitled "Deadman" made cover alone its premier tonight and was awesome. They first d "Supertouch" and the crowd exploded. Their set

would have made my night. On next were Fahrenheit 451. This was my time seeing them since the release of their CD and

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wasn't in anyway dissappointed, as they tore the place apart in usual Farenheit fashion. We got to hear all five tracks from their CD, the New York's hardest songs as well as a Burn cover, which was a pleasant surprise itself. Their energy was just overwhelming.

On next from LA, Downset. A lot of people like them, but I truly think they suck. They remind me more of Rage Against the Machine(a band I can't tolerate) than anything decent). Halfway through their set I couldn't take anymore and went to hang out outside. It was freezing.

D-Generation, Electric Frankenstein, L.E.S. Stitches, Furious George, RadioZero at CBGB. March 1.

When I got here there weren't that many people there, which was a surprise cause I thought Dgen were huge. RadioZero played first and bored me to tears; they were really radio-friendly sounding and poppy sounding and at times reminded me of Bracket. I'm sure if RadioZero ever made it to Mtv they'd be the next big thing(I hate that term-ed).Also it seemed that their set dragged on way to long.

Furious George went on next and played really enjoyable Ramones type punk rock. Something funny happened to me: the whole time they're playing I can't help but think that these guys should be on Lookout! Records. Two days later I was reading some zine and saw a review for their record on none other than Lookout! Records. Their set was concluded as usual with all the audience members joining in to sing "Gilligan".

L.E.S. Stitches, the band I came to see were next. With the lights out they busted into a song with Mick running around and playing with a really powerful flashlight creating that "ghost story at night effect" Another energetic set by this great band which consisted of songs of their CD and their two 7 inches. "Nutjob" finished their set tonight instead of the Dead Boys cover. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy them and I was no exception.

I missed a big chunk of Electric Frankenstein's set, but from what I heard they were good as usual. I left before D-Generation went on frankly because I can't stand them and had to catch the 1:30 train home.

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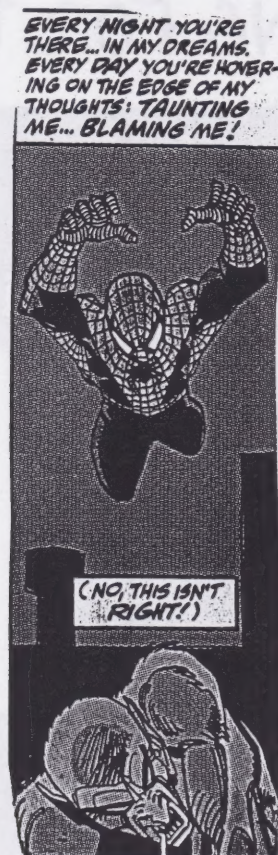
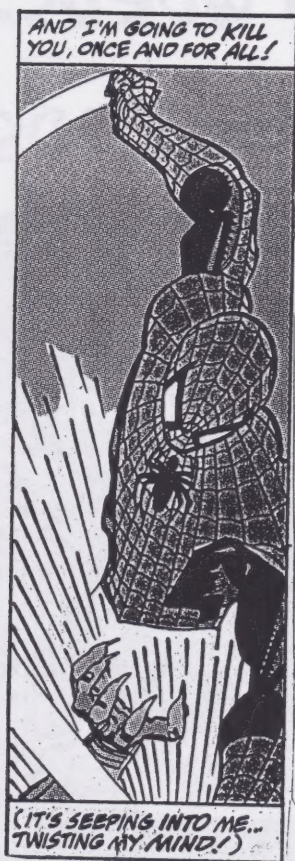
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Conclusion.

That's it I hope you enjoyed it. I'm sure as hell glad this is finally done. Once again thanks for supporting our zine by buying it. We'll try to get the next one out in the beginning of the summer. Till next time.

-Max and Ben.

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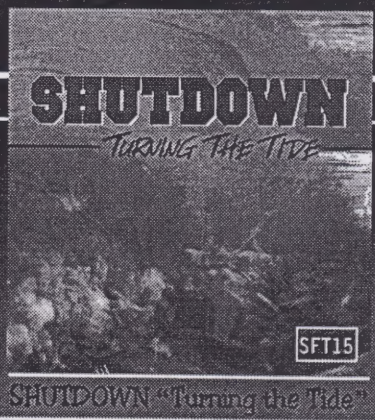
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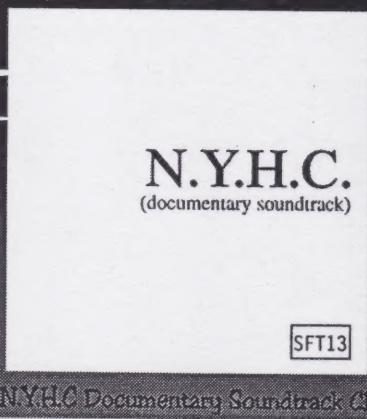
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